SUNDAY
February 15, 2026

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ON SUNDAY
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

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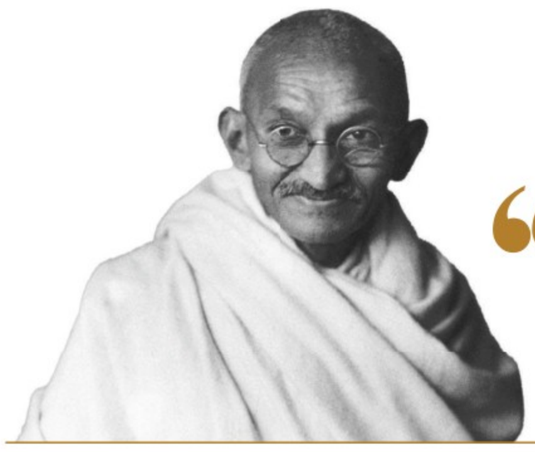

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Under the noble ideals of **'Antyodaya'** and **'Sarvodaya'** championed by **Mahatma Gandhiji**, the Government of Karnataka, led by Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri Siddaramaiah** and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Shri D K Shivakumar**, marks a significant milestone of 1,000 days in office.

## Key Milestones

**₹1.16+ Lakh Crore**
Allocated so far for the Five Guarantees

**2.11+ Lakh**
Families Provided with Title Deeds

**₹1.5 Lakh Crore**
Invested in Bengaluru's Infrastructure Development

**₹1.12+ Lakh Crore**
Reserved Annually for Public Welfare Schemes

**1.37+ Crore**
Families are Direct Beneficiaries of Government Schemes

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As is enshrined in our constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

karnataka information

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SUNDAY BLOCKBUSTER

## Heavyweights India, Pakistan lock horns

Both teams have remained unbeaten in Group A and will look to seal a Super Eight berth

SPORT » PAGE 18

BNP: Return of the old guard

PROFILES » PAGE 16

What is in store for garment exporters?

FAQ » PAGE 15

Congress neglected Northeast India: Modi

NEWS » PAGE 11

## Tarique aide asks India to 'break from the past'

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
DHAKA

Bangladesh will take a decision on the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty based on its "national interest", according to Humaiun Kobir, foreign affairs adviser to Tarique Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in an exclusive interview, Mr. Kobir urged India to "break from the past", adding that communal incidents in India were a "matter of concern" for Bangladesh.

The Ganga Water Treaty is due for renewal by December this year.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 10

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

# New Urban Challenge Fund to tap market for infra push

Centre to provide ₹1 lakh cr.; govt. aid will cover 25% of project cost, subject to raising at least 50% of the rest from the market; cities with a population of 10 lakh or more and State capitals covered

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet has approved the launch of the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), a new Centrally sponsored scheme of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry with ₹1 lakh crore Central assistance.

In a statement on Saturday, the government said the scheme aimed to support "transformative and bankable" urban projects through a competitive "challenge mode" as urban infrastructure could not be developed with public finance alone.

Central assistance will cover 25% of the project costs, subject to raising a minimum of 50% of the project cost from the market, including municipal bonds, bank loans, and public-private partnerships, leading to an expected investment of ₹4 lakh crore in the urban sector over the next five years. The fund will cover cities with a population of 10 lakh or more (based on 2025 estimates); all capitals of States and Union Territories; and major industrial cities with a population of 1 lakh or more. Additionally, all urban local bodies in hilly States and northeastern States and smaller urban local bodies with a population below 1 lakh will be eligible for support under the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme. The Fund marks a paradigm shift in India's urban development approach from grant-based financing to market-linked, reform-driven, and outcome-oriented infrastructure creation, the statement said.

It will leverage market finance, private participation, and citizen-centric reforms for the delivery of high-quality urban infrastructure. It aims to build productive, inclusive, and climate-responsive cities, positioning them as a key driver of the country's next phase of economic growth, the statement added.

The fund will be operational from the financial year 2025-26 to 2030-31, with an extendable implementation period up to 2033-34.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

### Urban makeover

The Urban Challenge Fund seeks to leverage private participation for a total investment of **₹4 lakh crore** in the next five years

- The fund will be operational from 2025-26 to 2030-31, with an extendable implementation period up to 2033-34
- A dedicated **₹5,000 crore** corpus to enhance the creditworthiness of **4,223** cities
- All urban local bodies in hilly States and in northeastern States, and those with a population below **1 lakh** will be eligible for support under the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme

## CM launches 'sixth guarantee', questions BJP MPs over 'injustice'

**The Hindu Bureau**
HUBBALLI

The mega convention at Haveri on Saturday to launch "Bhoo Guarantee", that coincided with the Congress government completing 1,000 days in office, also became a platform for raising the issue of "injustice" meted out to Karnataka by the Centre.

Addressing beneficiaries who were issued title deeds of properties, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah questioned the silence of the former Chief Ministers, who are now MPs, on the issue of "injustice". "Former Chief Ministers and incumbent MPs Basavaraj Bommai and Jagadish Shettar and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi are not opening their mouths to speak on the injustice to Karnataka," he said.

"We have created a record by distributing title deeds to a total of 2.2 lakh beneficiary families. These have been achieved despite the injustice by the Centre in terms of release of funds," he said.

Describing the title deed distribution as the "sixth guarantee", he said that if what was due for the State was given by the Centre, the government would be able to initiate more development works.

Mr. Siddaramaiah claimed that in the last two years and nine months, the government had fulfilled 243 assurances. "But the BJP which did not fulfil its assurances when in power, is now spreading canards about the exchequer being empty. So far we have directly credited ₹1,18,000 crore to bank accounts of people through various guarantees," he said.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 8

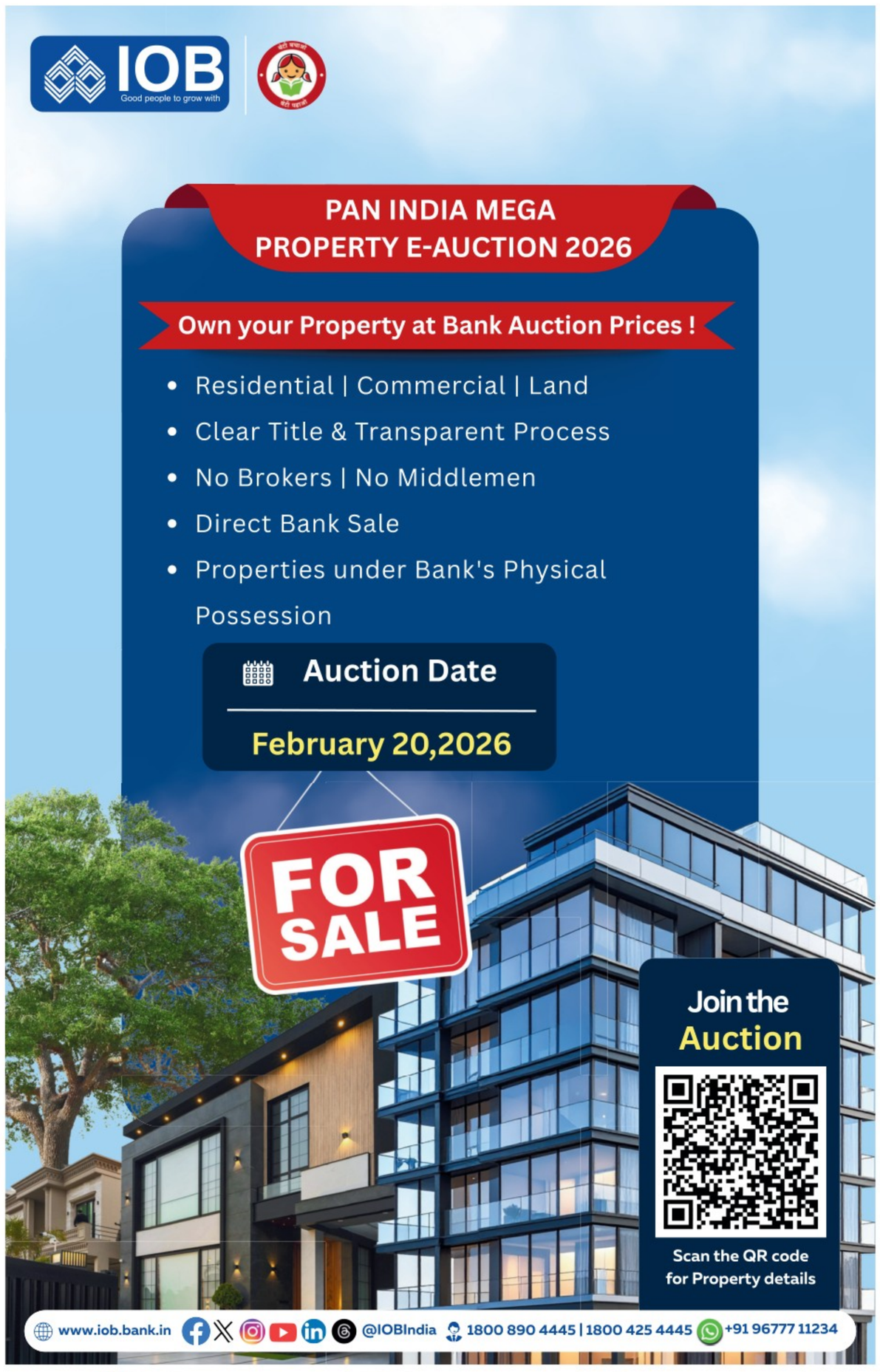
## NEARBY

### Minister rank to leaders to burden exchequer

BENGALURU
The State government's decision to confer "Cabinet rank" on MLAs and MLCs and grant "Minister of State" status to party workers appointed as heads of government boards, corporations, and authorities is likely to put additional strain on the exchequer. » PAGE 8

### Missing city student in U.S.: CS seeks MEA help

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has sought the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs in tracing a Bengaluru student reported missing in the United States. » PAGE 3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**Patient pursuit:** Kashmiri fishermen wait with their fishing rods in the cold waters of the Jhelum river hoping for a morning catch in Srinagar.

**Under the pale sun:** A fisherman stands at the edge of his boat as he casts a net to catch fish on the Dal lake.

**For the win:** A fisherman throws his fishing net into the cold waters of the Dal lake in the hope of a good haul.

**Silent hunter:** Kashmiri fishermen, holding harpoons and huddled under blankets, wait on their boats to catch fish using the centuries-old *tchay-e-gard shikar* (shadow fishing) technique on the frigid Anchar lake in Srinagar.

# Hook, line, and ice

In Kashmir, lakes and rivers sustain a vibrant fishing culture that blends livelihood, tradition, and cuisine; seasonal rhythms and deep-rooted culinary heritage is preserved by the local community

**Imran Nissar**
imran.nissar@thehindu.co.in

Kashmir is known for its waterbodies such as the Dal lake, Wular lake, Anchar lake, and the Jhelum and Sindh rivers that provide a natural habitat for a variety of fish, including trout, carp, and some indigenous species.

As settlements grew around these water bodies, fishing became both a means of livelihood as well as a traditional occupation in this part of the world.

Catching fish in Kashmir is by both traditional and modern methods, using nets, traps, and small boats in lakes and slow-moving waters. Angling is popular in streams and rivers, particularly for trout.

For locals, fishing remains a well-loved hobby as many often spend patient hours around the waterbodies. Commercial fishing practices follow seasonal patterns to protect fish during breeding periods.

Freshly caught fish are brought early to local markets, where they are sold directly to consumers or vendors. In cities such as Srinagar, the markets are busy and vibrant, with buyers seeking fresh, locally sourced fish. Some of the catch is also supplied to hotels and restaurants, contributing to the local food economy and tourism sector.

Women take up the selling of fish in the markets and men are engaged in catching the fish in the early hours of the morning and, at times, in the late evening.

Smoking and drying fish are traditional preservation techniques, especially important in the light of Kashmir's long winters. For smoking, fish are cleaned, lightly salted, and exposed to controlled smoke from wood or hay fires, which adds flavour and extends shelf-life. Drying involves salting the fish and hanging them in airy spaces or sun-drying them.

Dried fish, locally known as *hogaad*, can be stored for months. Smoked fish is known as *fahre* and, when cooked with collard greens, is considered a delicacy in Kashmir.

Fresh fish are fried, cooked in light gravies, or combined with vegetables, often using mustard oil and spices. Smoked and dried fish get pride of place in winter meals, providing nutrition, warmth, and a deep connection to Kashmiri culinary heritage.

**Daily ritual:** A fisherman dipping his catch in the waters of the Dal lake on a cold winter morning.

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J BG-BGE

# 701 of 1,278 accident black spots on NH in State rectified

With 1,278 black spots, Karnataka ranks sixth in the country with the highest number of accident-prone locations on NH

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

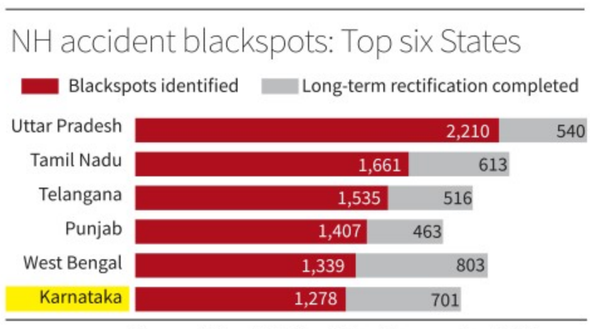
As many as 701 of the 1,278 accident-prone 'black spots' identified on National Highways (NH) in Karnataka have been rectified through long-term measures, according to data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

With 1,278 black spots, Karnataka ranks sixth among States with the highest number of accident-prone locations on National Highways in the country. Only Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Punjab and West Bengal have reported a higher number of such locations, as per State-wise data compiled by the Ministry.

Officials explained that black spots are identified based on a defined threshold of accidents involving fatalities or grievous injuries, using accident reports submitted by State governments. "These locations are flagged after analysing accident frequency and severity over a specified period," an official said.

While over half of Karnataka's identified black spots have been permanently addressed, 577 locations are yet to be rectified through long-term solutions, officials said. "In Karnataka, sustained efforts have resulted in the permanent rectification of more than 700 black spots," an official noted.

The remaining 577 locations are yet to be rectified through long-term solutions, say officials.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY




*Source: Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways*

**Corrective measures**

Pending locations are currently being managed through short-term corrective measures, including improved road markings, installation of signage, crash barriers, road studs, and delineators, closure of unauthorised median openings, and traffic-calming measures. "These interventions are aimed at immediately reducing accident risk until permanent engineering solutions are put in place," the official said.

Long-term rectification works typically involve improvements in road geometry, junction redesign, spot widening of carriageways, and construction of underpasses or overpasses. Officials pointed out that such works require extensive pre-construction activities such as land acquisition, forest clearances and shifting of utilities, which often lead to delays. "These processes are time-consuming but necessary to ensure durable safety outcomes," the official added.

**Interventions**

The Ministry has strengthened data-driven interventions through the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) system, earlier known as the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD).

According to officials, eDAR serves as a central repository for reporting, management, and analysis of road accident data across the country.

"The platform enables authorities to identify accident-prone locations using analytics, track remedial measures, monitor compliance, and ensure efficient processing of road accident claims," the official added.

The Karnataka Transport Department rolled out the Centre's eDAR system in the State recently.

# I had seconds to react: Survivor recounts horror of STRR crash that killed seven

**Chetan B.C.**
BENGALURU

A view of the site of a road accident which killed seven people, on Hoskote-Dobbspet National Highway, near Bengaluru, on Friday.
ANI VIDEO GRAB

"It was pitch dark, and visibility was poor. I was depending entirely on my car's headlights when, all of a sudden, I saw a tyre lying in the middle of the road, barely 40 to 50 metres ahead. In that split second, I knew I had to avoid it, otherwise, my car would have toppled," recalled Nandan (name changed), the driver of an SUV who had a narrow escape in the pile-up near Sulibele on Friday.

His miraculous escape came even as seven people – including five minor boys – were tragically killed in the accident on the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) (Hosakote-Dobbspet) near M. Satyavara on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Mr. Nandan managed to steer through the remnants of a container truck involved in the crash, which were strewn across the road. Amid the chaos, his vehicle hit the side barrier, but he escaped unhurt.

**On the way to airport**

"I was heading to the airport with my cousin to pick up a friend who had arrived from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Thankfully, I was able to control the car, otherwise, the outcome could have been very different," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Nandan left home around 3.30 a.m., and the incident occurred at about 4.12 a.m., a few metres after crossing the Kambalipura gate bridge. He said he was driving at a speed of 80 to 90 kmph.

Recounting the moments of terror, Mr. Nandan said that on spotting the tyre, he swerved first to the right and then sharply to the left to steady the vehicle. As he was still processing what was happening, he suddenly saw an entire chassis that had been ripped off the truck in front of him. "I again veered to the right. By then, my speed had come down to 30 to 40 kmph, but I lost a bit of control and rammed into the side barrier. Fortunately, because of the reduced speed, the damage was limited," he said.

The airbags deployed, and Mr. Nandan and his cousin suffered only negligible injuries. At 4.13 a.m., the emergency alert on his smartwatch was triggered, and his emergency contacts were dialled.

At first, he was completely disoriented. "I thought the chassis had come loose because of some mechanical failure in the truck. I was still trying to understand what had happened when the truck driver stepped out of his vehicle," he said.

Mr. Nandan said he was initially angry with Subramani, the truck driver, and questioned why he hadn't at least moved the tyre and the chassis off the road. "That's when a woman, who was also driving on the same stretch, intervened and told me that another car had been completely crushed a few metres away. Soon after, I noticed the bike as well. It took me a good 20 to 25 minutes to fully grasp the gravity of the situation," he said.

**Prone to accidents**

"The nearby villagers were complaining about frequent accidents, once every 15 to 20 days. This particular stretch, just after the Kambalipura bridge, slopes downward and has no street lights," he pointed out.

Mr. Nandan said that he and his cousin then switched on their mobile phone flashlights and waved them to slow down oncoming vehicles. "It took nearly four hours to clear everything, and we finally left the spot around 8.30 a.m.," he said.

**Spot inspection**

Meanwhile, a police officer who is part of the investigation told *The Hindu* that a team from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which is in charge of the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), inspected the spot on Saturday. The team will discuss the matter internally after submitting its report and later decide whether any measures are required.

"There was a CCTV camera a few hundred metres away from the spot, and it shows the car moving at a high speed. Our investigation will focus on the sequence of events leading to the incident," the officer said.

The officer also said that there are technical shortcomings in adding the father's name of the minor boy who drove the car to the case. "A decision on this is yet to be taken," he added.

The body of one of the deceased was taken to Kerala, while the others were cremated in Bengaluru on Saturday.

# Vocal concert on Feb. 22

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Gayana Samaja will present a vocal concert by noted Carnatic musician T.V. Ramaprasad on its premises on K.R. Road on February 22 at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. Ramaprasad will be accompanied by Ramanujacharyalu on the violin, B.C. Manjunath on the mridangam, and C.P. Vyasa Vittala on the khanjira.

# Six women steal cash and gold valuables from apartment complex; case registered

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**Officials have urged residents and security personnel to remain vigilant about unknown visitors**

A group of six women allegedly got away with cash and gold ornaments from an apartment complex in Yeshwanthpur on Saturday.

The incident occurred at the Golden Apartment complex. According to police, the women arrived at the apartment posing as vendors selling artificial jewellery.

The security guard initially denied them access. However, while four of the women engaged the guard in conversation and diverted his attention, two others allegedly slipped inside unnoticed.

The duo reportedly entered a house located near the security room on the ground floor and made away with approximately ₹40,000 in cash and gold ornaments. The accused fled the scene soon after the theft. The entire act was captured on CCTV cameras installed in the apartment complex.

The police have registered a case and launched a search for the accused based on CCTV camera footage. Officials have urged residents and security personnel to remain vigilant about unknown visitors.

# BDA begins drawing HUDCO loan for Bengaluru Business Corridor project

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

**L.K. Atheeq, chairperson of BBC, says on Feb. 13, a token first instalment of ₹50 cr. was drawn**

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has begun drawing funds from a sanctioned loan by the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) project, earlier called the Peripheral Ring Road, said L.K. Atheeq, chairperson of the corridor initiative. Mr. Atheeq took to X to share that the BDA's PRR account had sufficient grants to cover land acquisition costs so far. "On February 13, a token first instalment of ₹50 crore was drawn. As land acquisition progresses, the authority plans to draw a further ₹500 crore before the end of March 2026," he noted.

Answering a query, Mr. Atheeq said that the February end-March 2026 deadline set for floating tenders for package I of the project, covering a 23-km stretch from the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) at Madavara on NH-4 (Tumakuru Road) to NH-7 (Ballari Road) near Collins Aerospace at Venkatala village, will be met as scheduled.

# Commemorative special cover released

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Clarence High School released a Commemorative Special Cover earlier this week in collaboration with India Post, marking 111 years of service in education. Selvi C., Chief Postmaster, Bengaluru GPO, attended the event. The cover features photographs of founders, former principals and a former KG coordinator.

# ED attaches properties worth ₹16.95 cr. in co-operative society scam

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has provisionally attached 11 immovable properties worth ₹16.95 crore belonging to Srivaibhava Sourhardha Pattina Sahakari Niyamitha president Nagavalli B.S., CEO Rajesh V.R., and their associated entities under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

According to a release issued on Saturday, the attachment order was passed on February 12. The properties, comprising land, plots, and buildings located in Ramanagara, Mysuru, and Bengaluru, were allegedly acquired using proceeds of crime generated through criminal activities.

The ED initiated an investigation based on an FIR registered by the Subramanyapura Police, Bengaluru, against Srivaibhava Sourhardha Pattina Sahakari Niyamitha, Nagavalli, Rajesh, and others. The FIR was filed following a complaint by the Managing Director of Karnataka State Federal Co-Operative Ltd. As per the complaint, the society had sanctioned loans to entities owned by its president and CEO without obtaining proper security. The loan amounts were allegedly not repaid, resulting in wrongful loss to depositors.

During the investigation, the ED gathered additional FIRs and chargesheets filed by the police against the accused society and its key management personnel. The probe revealed that Rajesh and Nagavalli had incorporated the co-operative society in 2011 with dishonest intent to mobilise public deposits and divert them for personal gain. Investigators allege that in collusion with other accused persons and entities, many of which were allegedly created by them, the couple diverted approximately ₹65 crore of public deposits, thereby generating proceeds of crime. A substantial portion of the funds was allegedly routed through their personal bank accounts and fictitious entities for the purpose of money laundering.

The diverted funds were allegedly used for purchasing immovable properties, business investments and personal consumption.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

**India Unveils First Public 8-Qubit Quantum Computer in Bengaluru**

QpiAI and Alliance University have announced India's first commercially accessible 8-qubit quantum computing center in Bengaluru. 'This isn't just about installing a machine; it's about igniting a quantum revolution in Indian innovation,' declared Dr. Nagendra Nagaraja, Founder and CEO of QpiAI. Mr. Abhay G Chebbi, Pro Chancellor of Alliance University, framed the initiative in broader terms: 'We're not building an academic lab–we're creating India's premier quantum showcase environment. This facility will generate sustainable commercial value through certification programs, research partnerships, and Quantum Computing as a Service (QCaaS) offerings while democratizing access to technology that could define the next century.' The QUASAR (Quantum AI School of Advanced Research) facility, launching at the university's Electronic City campus, will provide hands-on access to indigenous superconducting quantum hardware for startups, enterprises, researchers, and the defence sector. Powered by QpiAI's homegrown QVidya 8-qubit system and Explorer software platform, the center aims to democratize quantum computing and strengthen India's technological sovereignty. Positioned within India's leading tech hub, it will serve over 8,000 startups and 200+ multinational companies, while supporting national goals under the National Quantum Mission. The initiative is designed to bridge academia, industry, and government–offering training, certifications, research collaborations, and Quantum Computing as a Service (QCaaS)–and marking a significant step in India's ambition to become a global quantum leader by 2030.

**New Era in Finance Education: Skill-Focused BCom Introduced at CHRIST (Deemed to be University)**

In response to the fast-changing global finance sector, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has launched a new undergraduate programme–BCom in Financial Analytics–at its Pune Lavasa campus. Designed in collaboration with NSE Academy, the four-year course aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 and offers flexible Honours and Research pathways.Moving beyond traditional commerce education, the programme emphasises industry-driven skills such as algorithmic trading, FinTech, and machine learning. It embeds professional certifications within the curriculum, allowing students to earn both a degree and recognised industry credentials. With a strong focus on practical learning, students receive hands-on training in Python and R, participate in simulations, and complete mandatory internships–bridging academic theory with real-world financial practice.

**"Roots to Wings," first-ever Scholarship Day at the St Joseph's University Main Auditorium**

St Joseph's University held its first-ever Scholarship Day, "Roots to Wings," at the SJU Main Auditorium on Friday, celebrating academic achievement and the transformative impact of education. The event brought together faculty, administrators, students, and guests to honour scholarship recipients and highlight the university's commitment to holistic growth. Chief Guest Markus Obkircher, Director and Head of Customer Solutions R&D (Chemistry) at Merck KGaA, described scholarships as both a trust and an investment, urging students to shape their futures with intelligence and integrity. Chancellor Dionysius Vaz emphasized value-based education and social responsibility, while Vice-Chancellor Victor Lobo congratulated awardees and encouraged them to use their opportunities to serve society.The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Finance Officer and Convenor Arun Prashanth D'Souza. The event reaffirmed the university's mission to empower students in Bengaluru through academic excellence and character formation.

**Angling over Anchar:** A Kashmiri fisherman balances himself expertly while wielding a harpoon on the Anchar lake.

**Camouflaged catch:** Using a traditional fishing method, a fisherman stays hidden as he waits for the right moment to trap fish.

**Swooping birds:** Fishermen go about their business, while birds of prey hover around them hoping to cash in on the catch.

**Aroma of winter:** Fresh catch hung on ropes to sun-dry in Bandipora, Kashmir. Drying is a traditional preservation technique, especially important in the light of Kashmir's long winters.

**Cache for the cold:** Kashmiri women lay fish over grass as part of a cooking process. Smoked fish, locally called *fahre*, is one of the traditional delicacies in the region and a winter favourite.

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# 72 begging children rescued by police in citywide drive

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In a major operation on Saturday, the Women and Child Protection Wing of the Bengaluru City Police rescued 72 children who were allegedly being used for begging across the city.

The special drive was conducted under the directions of the Police Commissioner of Bengaluru City. The operation was carried out jointly by the City Crime Branch (CCB), Child Protection Unit, Department of Women and Child Development, NGOs, and the Health Department.

The rescue operation targeted major junctions, crowded public places, and commercial hubs across Bengaluru.
FILE PHOTO

**Areas covered**

The rescue operation targeted major junctions, crowded public places, and commercial hubs across Bengaluru where minors were found engaged in begging and related activities.

After being rescued, the children were produced before the Child Welfare authorities. Their background details were verified, medical examinations were conducted, and efforts are under way to trace their biological parents. The children have been presented before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for further legal procedures and rehabilitation measures.

Officials stated that sustained drives will continue to curb child begging and to identify those exploiting minors for financial gain.

# Missing Bengaluru student in U.S.: State seeks MEA intervention

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco has confirmed that it is actively coordinating with local authorities in the United States in connection with the disappearance of Saketh

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has sought the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in tracing a Bengaluru student reported missing in the United States.

Saketh Sreenivasiah, 22, a resident of Srigandada Kaval in Bengaluru, has been missing in Berkeley, California, since the morning of February 12, 2026. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree at the University of California.

According to his family, a missing person complaint has been registered with the Berkeley Police Department. On Saturday, the Consulate General of India in San Francisco confirmed that it is actively coordinating with local authorities in the U.S. in connection with the disappearance Saketh.

In an official communication dated February 14, 2026, Yashovardhan Singh Thakur, Assistant Section Officer (Community Affairs), Consulate General of India, stated that the mission is in constant touch with the family of Saketh, his roommate, and the Berkeley Police Department.

**Laptop, bag found**

According to the update, police have recovered Saketh's laptop, bag, and passport near the Anza Lake area in Berkeley. Authorities are currently conducting a search operation in and around the lake.

**The family has urged authorities to act swiftly as anxiety mounts over the student's safety**

The consulate has assured the family that it is extending all possible assistance and is regularly seeking updates from local law enforcement agencies. Officials have also spoken to Saketh's father, Sreenivasiah, his brother Sudhamshu, and his roommate Baneet Singh regarding developments in the case. Further updates are awaited as search operations continue.

Earlier, in a letter dated February 13, and addressed to Vikram Misri, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh had sought urgent intervention on the matter.

The Chief Secretary had requested that the Ministry of External Affairs, through the Consulate General of India in San Francisco, coordinate with local law enforcement agencies in the United States and extend all necessary assistance to trace the missing student and support his family.

**Family's request**

The request came following a representation submitted by Mr. Sreenivasaiah, Saketh's father, who appealed to the Karnataka Chief Minister for assistance in locating his son. The family has urged authorities to act swiftly as anxiety mounts over the student's safety. Mr. Sreenivasaiah told pressmen, "We still haven't been able to locate him. We are in touch with his roommates and others. We have written to the government seeking support and assistance to find our son."

*(With PTI inputs)*

# Kite festival adds colour to Hampi Utsav

**The Hindu Bureau**
KALABURAGI

The three-day Hampi Utsav-2026 got off to a vibrant start with a kite festival organised at the Vijayanagara College grounds in Hosapete of Vijayanagara district on Saturday.

MLA for Vijayanagara H.R. Gaviyappa inaugurated the festival, which was jointly organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture and the district administration.

A large number of kite enthusiasts participated in the event, turning the skyline into a splash of colours with kites of varied shapes and sizes.

Tourists and local residents gathered in hundreds to witness the spectacle. A giant horse-shaped kite soaring high drew attention.


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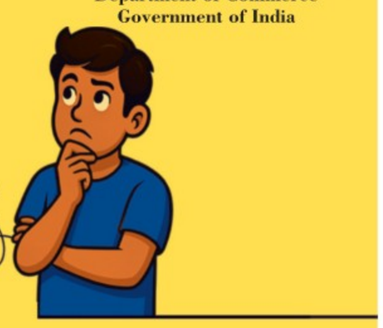

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# Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

# Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

## BRIDES WANTED

### TAMIL

**HINDU NADAR,** 29/168, SWE, 25L pa, from an Educated, Well Settled Nuclear Family Seeks Suitable Bride. Whatsup BHP 9841200165

**MUDALIAR 56** Ph.D Aboard return Business divorcee no issues s k suitable bride around 45 age CNB 9500367269

**BALIJA NAIDU,** 33/175, MBA, Moolam: Thanusu, Fair, Teetotaler, Software Engineer, Income 10LPA, well–settled. Innocent Divorced, Issue Cleared. Seeks educated, fair, well–settled bride without conditions from upper/middle–class family. 9941012116

**MUDALIYAR 35** yrs / 165 cm B.Tech Msc, Revathy / Meenam.Well Paid Job in Germany.Ct.9442135216, 8015435216

**50YR PILLAI** Divorce 180cm Own House &Business Seek Gd Family Gd Character 35–45yr of Bride CNB 9790228185

**BRIDE WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar, 35yrs, B.Tech, MS, Well Educated Family background Contact: 6385293227

**MUDALIAR 30,** BE,MS 178cm Smart Look 36Lacs PA Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465 / 7200866346

**REDDY BOY,** ME, 46/ Purattadi, religious, non smoker, non alcoholic divorcee, Manager in leading MNC, owning house & flat, 20 lakhs p.a. seeks suitable Hindu bride Ct9985792975

**GOLDSMITH 37/**175 V.Fair Business 2L.PM Wife Expired. Well Settled Seeks Middle Class Girl. CNB 7305436068

**TAMIL, PURE** Vegetarian, 47 State Govt Officer –12L PA. First Marriage. Seek Caste no Bar only Vegetarian. Call/WA – 89037 47433

**MUDHALIYAR, Thiruvonam,** Govt. Doctor - Asst. Professor - MS (Opt), Working at Tirupur Medical College, Tirupur, Age 38, Divorced, seeks bride Unmarried / Divorce (No child) Age below 33 (Doctor / Any Degree) from good family. CT: 9442452333, Tirupur

**HINDU NADAR,** 25yrs, MBBS, doing MS(General Surgery), Doctor Parents seeks suitable MBBS/ studying MBBS Bride. Ct: 94437 51221

**LOOKING FOR** a bride for my son who is 52 years old ,Hindu, US Doctor, Never married, US Citizen. Please text me WhatsApp , No caste. Geetha 318–465–4292.

**GOUNDER, 47yrs,** B.Sc, Rohini Star Own Business, Income Rs.1 Lakh P.M, Property 2Crores, seeks Bride any OBC Community. CT: 9840878715.

**BRIDE WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar, 29yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite Business Family in Chennai. Contact: 6385293227

**HINDU, DIVORCED,** 32, caste no bar, 30 crores, NRI, 9048 444858.

**HINDU, 27,** USA, caste no bar, 20 crores, MS, 9072 777811

**HINDU, SC** (Aadhi Dravidar) (Preferable Kongu) 30, Punar Poosam, Mithunam ( Gemini) Raagu Kedhu, 167cm Fair, B.E, M.Tech, 9L PA Bangalore. Seeks educated Bride Ct:9810078624

**BRIDE WANTED** Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai. Contact: 9841329471 / 9380791999

**HINDU SENGUNTHAR,** Age-31 officer KVB, Born in Moola Nakshathra 4th Padham. Seeks Employed / unemployed girl from decent educated family. Contact: 7598227564 / 9445250564

**ALLIANCE INVITED** for our son, aged 29 years, residing in Coimbatore, height 157cm, BE graduate, runs his own industry manufacturing metal parts, Hindu Viswakarma. The bride should hail from a decent, educated family. Caste no bar. Contact number: 7200771144

**HINDU MUDALIAR** Marine Engineer 40yrs Naga Dosha Own House Chennai Well Settled Seeks Bride.Ct: 9444532266

**MUDALIAR, 38** years, 5'8", MSc Electronic Media, (CEG, Anna Univ) , 7.2 LPA, Educated well–settled family, Educated working brides only, CNB, 9940562947(W), devivjk@gmail.com

**HINDU NADAR,** 41yrs/185cm, M. Tech(IIT Madras), works in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

**MUDALIAR/ THULLUVA Vellalar, 28, BTech, MBA, Poosam, Only son, 164 cms, Business, Well settled in Coimbatore, Own Properties, Seek Bride. Sub Sec No Bar, 9841273353, 9841300229**

**MUDALIAR 28/**180, BE, MBA, Industrialist, 10000000.PA, Elite Family, 200 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

**BRIDE WANTED** Hindu Nadar 39yrs, BE, Divorce, Elite business family in Australia Ct:9841329471 / 9380791999

**SC HINDU** UK PR 29Yr, any Jathagam, Good Job+Busines 90Laks P.A Normal Girl Ok Want to go to UK 7358638363

**CHENNAI, MUDLR** PhD Tetolr Divorced, 42yrs.GM Chess Govt 2Lac / mth. Educ Simple Any Cast, girl 9884171419

**ALLIANCE INVITED** from Brahmin girls– Unmarried /Divorcee without issue for CA–94 – MNC Chennai– Rs 25 lpa–Koundinya Avittam– Makara. Owns Independent house Chennai. First marriage 10 days declared Null and Void. Boy Non consummated. Contact 9941305594

### TAMIL

**HINDU, BRAHMIN** Kaashyapa, Rohini / BDS/Dentist/30 years/170cms based in Chennai, own house, is seeking a girl, age difference 1–5 years Vegetarian, Any Brahmin / Saiva Pillai / Saiva Mudaliyar Girl, good family background. Contact: 8668127702

**✔ TAMIL IYER Ambitious Groom seeks suitable girl below 40yrs. Boy 5.7ft, working as R&D Engg. Fair & Good looking. Ph 98402 11194**

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**Vanniyakula Kshatriya,** Chitirai, BE, M.S(USA), 30yrs, 176cm, Texas USA, work Permit, Family is Financially Well Off, Looking for a like Minded Brides working at USA. Contact: 8122072363, 9884604233.

**HINDU NADAR** 37/169cm BE Software Chennai Visakam seeks bride. Brok excuse. CNB. 93848 59697

**THULUVA Vellala** Mudaliar / Naidu 33 / 182 cm , B.E, Teetotaler, well settled Chennai based wealthy family seeks suitable bride. Ph: 98410 36017

**VISWAKARMA 31** Yrs M.Tech (IIIT) SWE Bangalore, 50 LPA, Seeks well settled working Bride. Ct : 9444302810

**Vanniyakula Kshatriya** 27/175 B.Tech MBA Magam / Simmam working at Bangalore well educated family settled in Chennai. Seeks Suitable fair, educated, Professional Bride.Ct:9884244151

**Mudaliyar 33,** 174 cms, Engineer Employee @ Hyderabad. Family is well off. Looking for a suitable bride from a well settled family. Contact - 98845 13749

**MUSLIM BOY** 29 BE(ECE) MS(Bits Pilani) Proj Lead MNC Chennai 32L P/A well todo fmly chennai. 94455 56810.

### TELUGU

**HINDU REDDY** 41 191 cms issueless divorce MDS dentist working in private in Chennai 1 lakh/mth seeks tall bride CNB ct 9384003929

**BALIJA NAIDU,** 1985/180cms, Kritigai, Whitesh, MBA, IT Director in Dubai seeks suitable bride – decent family with BHP ct: 9840633177

**REDDY, SWATHI,** 29/183 BE, MS London, Business, divorced seeks educated, good family background girl. Naidu's also welcome. Ct: 9710933159

**BALIJA NAIDU,** Age–47 Unmarried MBA, Rohini / Rishabam MNC 19L PA. Chennai. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9094035781

**REDDIAR 39** B.E (Yarn Trading) Rs.1 Lakh PM Caste no bar seeks good looking Bride. 9443821427 / 9442721427.

**TELUGU VANNAR,** 41, MBA, Kanni, Astham, AGM in MNC, 30 Lac.PA, Any Telugu Caste no Bar. Ct: 98947 77505.

**BRIDE WANTED** Rich Naidu 30yrs B.Tech MS Own school & complexs Elite business family in Chennai 6385293227

### TELUGU

**HINDU Aryavysya** Telugu-Vegetarian 37yrs/179cm, very good looking, working in a Bangalore based firm with WFH option,Monthly Income-2.5 Lacs, Divorcee, seeks suitable Bride in Tamilnadu. CT:9042593341.

**AGE 45** MCA Sadhayam,Kumbha rasi Fair Software Engineer seeks suitable Bride, caste no bar. PH: 9894670293

**NAIDU 30/**188 Handsome, BE, MBA, Own Resort,9000000.PA, Elite Family, 250 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

**BRIDE WANTED** Rich Naidu 46yrs, M.Tech, Divorce, Own Hospitals & Own colleges in Chennai Contact:6385293227

### URDU

**MUSLIM BOY** 29 BE(ECE) MS(Bits Pilani) Proj Lead MNC Chennai 32L P/A well todo fmly chennai. 94455 56810.

### URDU

**SYED OWNHOME** 48/BBA, seeks any marital status bride, 90477 79486 rishtachennai3@gmail.com

## BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

### TAMIL

**Tamil, 32Yrs,** Son, ME, MBA 17 LPA; Daughters, 29Yrs, B.Tech, MBA 13 LPA, IT & 26 Yrs Bsc seek suitable Bride & Grooms, CNB, Ct:9441677205

### MARRIAGE BUREAU

**US UK** Europe All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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My clients intend to purchase the Property mentioned below in the SCHEDULE have negotiated with the owner **Sri. K. SRINIVAS** aged about 52 years, S/o M. Kaalachari, residing at No. 31, 1st "B" Cross, 2nd Main, Muthappa Block, Ganganagar Extn. R.T. Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560 032.

Any person/company/firm/institution having any claim of whatsoever kind with regard to the Schedule Property or anybody opposing the said transaction may write to the undersigned **within TEN days** from the date of this notice with documentary evidence, failing which my clients shall proceed with the sale transaction presuming that there are NO CLAIMS OF WHATSOEVER.

**-:SCHEDULE:-**

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No. 25,** in old Sy. No.18, New Corporation No. 87, situated at **4th Main Road, Hebbal Mill, Ganganagar, Bengaluru 560 032,** BBMP Ward No. 34 having PID No: 98-75-87 measuring **East to West 40 feet 6 inches or 12.37 Meters, North to South 15 feet or 4.5 Meters** and other piece of land adjacent to the western side measuring **East to West 14 feet 6 inches or 4.45 Meters and North to South 20 feet 11 inches or 6.13 Meters, totally measuring 902 Square Feet or 83.79 Square Meters** and bounded on the:

**East by :** Road, **West by :** Site No. 24
**North by :** Remaining portion of Site no. 25
**South by :** Site No. 26

**M.A. FAYAZ AHAMMED**
**Advocate & Notary**
No.290, 7th Cross Road, R.T. Nagar 1st Block
Bengaluru-560 032 Mobile:9980060783
Dated: 14-02-2026 Place: Bengaluru

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, SRI. HARISH. N** s/o Doddanna Narayanappa, residing at No: 2/1, 14th Main, Sri Narasimha Swamy Temple, Indiranagar, HAL II Stage, Bangalore - 560 008 is the Owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder. It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at its office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy. No. 25/1,** measuring to an extent of **26 ½ Guntas,** situated at Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the:

**East by :** Land belongs to Mr. Krishna Reddy;
**West by :** Road;
**North by:** Land belongs to Mr. Hanumappa;
**South by:** Land belongs to Mr. Ravi;

**Dated this 15th day of February 2026 at Bangalore**

**M/S. LEGAL NEXUS**
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# Classifieds

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

# Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

## BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
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ASSAMESE
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ORIYA
PARSI
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### COSMOPOLITAN

**DELHI–BASED** BANIYA girl, 34, 5'7", Fair, USA/Harvard Masters, MNC employed, Seeks welleducated Groom. Ph: 9811278555

**LOOKING FOR** a boy for a 26–year–old girl, practising advocate in Mumbai, born to a Tamil father and a Muslim mother. Please call or text on +91 98675 31507.

**BEAUTIFUL CULTURED** 33, 160cm, EU–based professional (BL/MBA). Able to relocate. Seeks compatible, handsome groom, preferably veg. Lang./caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

THE HINDU
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### DIVORCEE

**VANNIYAR, 30** Ayilyam, Employed in Bank, Leagally Divorced, No Issues. Groom needed from Tanjore, Kumbakonam or Chennai area only. 9840961251

**MUDHALIYAR, 35,** Sathayam, Divorced, No Issue, Bank employee's daughter. Suitable Groom Needed. 9444406770

**DKV, 29,** Divorced, Female MD Radiologist, chennai 9047119910

**THONDAIMANDALA MUDALIAR** Girl 39 Poosam two time divorce no child B.Tech,M.B.A working as Executive in M.N.C at Thiruvellore seeks well qualified and well employed in Chennai only. Vegetarian Mudaliar or Vegetarian family boy only.Ct:9381004883

**HINDU PILLAI** Bride age 47, 172cm Chennai employed divorcee seeks alliance working in Pvt or Govt with Monthly Salary 30,000 & above. Only divorcee, widower contact: 7200757324

**KIND, BEAUTIFUL** 46, well–educated, soft–spoken UK–based professor. Seeks well–read, compatible groom. Able to relocate. Religion & community no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

**NAIR, FAIR,** good looking, age 38/ 169, MBA, Thiruvonam, employed settled Chennai, seeks well settled groom WhatsApp call: 9884872901

### DOCTOR

**Hindu Nadar** 25/165 Thiruvathirai MDGM 1 Year/ Govt UG/PG in Chennai/Tirunelveli origin seek Nadar PG Dr Contact : 7200043060

**HINDU NADAR** Girl 33yrs, MBBS, M.S Ophthamology Vitreo - Retina Surgeon Doctor only. 9840038499/ 9487928218

**SUPER SPECIALIST** doctor working in Bangalore 34 years/155cms, fair, slim seeks suitable groom with good habits caste no bar ct - 9449010122

### ENGINEER

**CHRISTIAN NADAR** Girls BE, MS,Fair 27, Seeks Suitable Engineer,Wish to Go to Canada. Ct : 73586 38363

**Mudaliar /** Vanniar 31Y/165cm Doctor MBBS, fellowship in Diabetology seeks Engineer Grooms. Ph: 94444 54188

### ENGLISH

**SC/AD..1996 PG Employed at Dubai looking for Groom preferably working at Dubai..Cont: 6281424279**

### GOVT / QUASI GOVT

**HINDU NADAR** 26 yrs, 168 cm, Civil Judge Seeks Bridegroom Below 30 yrs from Same Profession / Group I / Group II Officer in Tamilnadu Only. Ct.9710209761 , 9840425972

### MALAYALAM

✔ **HINDU NAIR Girl, Vilakkithala–27yrs, B.Com, CMA, 168cms, Star: Aswathy, Native Trichur, Family settled at Trivandrum, Currently at Chennai, Pleasant Appearance, Belong to an upper middle–class family, Parents Rtd Govt Officials, seeking a suitable alliance from respectable families, Ct: 9444628290, Email: surendramadav90@gmail.com**

### NRI

**OUR DAUGHTER** '93/5'6" Hindu H1B fellow from reputed med school, very pretty friendly well mannered, now working as specialist doctor in US. Seeking suitable doctor groom from good family, working/ settled in US. Language caste no bar, reqst pic & full details W: 9894651124

**HINDU NADAR,** B.Tech MS, 27 Years and Employed in USA. We seek Hindu Nadar Groom employed in USA for our daughter.Kindly Contact: 98423-44133 / 96599-91119

✔ **41 Years/RC** / Tamil/ US Scientist seek US Single Groom Contact: 9884079338.

### TAMIL

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM Girl 38, Engineer, slim, seeks qualified, employed, unmarried Tamil Groom. 9444235779**

**CHRISTIAN CSI** , Very Fair , Beautiful, MS Arch , 30 y. Alliance invited from Fair, Handsome, Height min 5Ft and 9 Inches ,Well settled , Good Family Background. Ct: 9884067923

**ARCHITECT FAIR** Girl, 29 years, well settled and doing free-lancing, Mudaliar, residing in White Town, Puducherry, seeks for a good looking bride groom from decent family, well settled background, age between 30 to 32 years, Salary : 15 LPA & above, must be Roman Catholic in Mudaliar / any forward caste. Cell : 9842320716

**CHRISTIAN, 26,** UK, Medical, 50 lakhs, VVIP. PH: 8137001255

**MUSLIM, 28,** Private, NRI, 35 lakhs. PH: 8138900312

### TAMIL

**TAMIL MUSLIM** Bride 31/159cm. MCA., AVP – Tech Lead, US bank, BLR, 30LPA well-settled family, Seeks Tamil speaking never married groom, similar background. Ct 90805 01299

**BORN AGAIN** Canadian Citizen Bride 29/153cm is looking for God Fearing, Family Oriented, Canadian or American Citizen. Age 30–35, Professional, have Biblical values and Faith. Email Profile and Photo to rvjplanning@gmail.com Call: 96771 81606

**ROMAN CATHOLIC** Nadar 23/167 B.Arch, working as Junior Modular Designer in Coimbatore Salary Rs. 300000 PA Seeks suitable Boy with O Negative Blood Group. 9442162159.

**CATHOLIC VELLALAR** 33/171, MBBS, MPH Step 1 passed in student visa, USA Seeks groom from USA. 9150153743

**30 CSI** Christian Doctor Seeks Doctor /Bank /Class 1 Officer. Contact 9894172123

**Muslim (kula)** 31/163, PhD, NRI Abu Dhab seeks groom Professional and religious (no shirk and bidah) 9500146962/ safanet@gmail.com

**CHRISTIAN, 27,** BSc, 50 lakhs. 8137001255

**BORN AGAIN** Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

**CHRISTIAN, ADI** Dravidar –33yrs, MBBS, Seeks Groom Doctor, Engineer A 2 Officer. Ct : 9677257313

**SC AD** Hindu Bride Age 26/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct 9443643415

**HINDU NADAR–** Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40LPA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

**HASTHAM 38** Fair MCA Chennai wanted Pillai/Mudaliar Prof qufd working groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

**VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA** 34Yrs, Meensrasi, Revathi star, BE, LLB, Advocate. Seeks Groom with Good job, Good family. 9710002879

**DOCTOR MD,** 38Yrs, fair, slim, divorced, consultant at reputed hospital in Chennai, seek well–settled groom with clean habits Ph: 9445018192

✔ **HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR,** 39 yrs. 172 cm, BE MBA,(UK) employed in MNC bank, Bangalore,Rs.40 lacs pa, seeking a suitable employed groom. CNB. contact 9176689616.

**MUDALIAR, 29 yrs, BE, affluent family with moral values at Bengaluru seek suitable groom. 7975421774**

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar 31yrs, B.Tech, Working in Bangalore, Elite business family Contact:6385293227

**GROOM WANTED** Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, MA, Ph.d, well educated Elite family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

**MUDALIAR (CNB)** 22/V.Fair, Under Graduate, Father Jewellery Business, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom– Business/ Industrialist–9962530015

**MUDALIAR: 26/**FAIR & Beautiful, MBBS,MD doing Final year,Chennai, Business Family, Only Daughter, Seeks Groom Doctor/ Business/Eng–8925019776

**HINDU, VISHWAKARMA,** 25, ME, 50 lakhs, Canada, VIP. PH: 8138009235

**HINDU, 29,** Divorced, caste no bar, 50 lakhs, MD, Doctor. PH: 8138900412

**NAIDU GIRL** 29/168, Thiruvathira, M.Tech, working in Bangalore, seeks suitable alliance from well educated and employed grooms. Basically from Tirunelveli. 9400854480

**PILLAI PSYCHOLOGIST** 26/174 kettai, Slim Fair M.phill Clinical Psychology seeks Good looking Well Qualified Groom Subset No Bar Ct 9840194246

**LOOKING FOR** a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 28 yrs, B.com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred – 9003199945 / 9003035547

**SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/**MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 8754354205

**VANNIA KULAKSHTRIYA** Girl, 32 years 155cm, MDS (Dentist), working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Star Moolam 4padam, DhanusuRasi. Contact: 9382167197 / 9962781009

**SWATHI BE** (Mech) MS (NUS) 28 yrs 158 5 years Experience abroad Working in MNC Bangalore Fair Slim intercaste seeks any Professional Groom 9363631558

**GROOM WANTED** Hindu Nadar, 29yrs, MBBS, MPH (US), Elite business family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

### TAMIL

**MUDALIYAR 30,** BE, MBA, Chennai, working in Cognizant, seeks suitable groom. CT: 9940421355/ 9150570749

✔ **TN GOVT** DR. MBBS MD Fair slim 23–02–90 Magaram Uthiradam 4 Chennai Hindu Naidu Elite Business Family seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Mudaliyar, 27yrs, M.Arch, Running Own firm in Chennai, Elite Business family 9952619776

**HINDU, 27,** Widow, Caste no bar, Rich / affluent, BA, 30 lakhs, 8138 900412

**HINDU, 31,** Canada, caste no bar, B.Tech, 40 lakhs, 7356 483111

**HINDU, 29,** Divorced, caste no bar, doctor, 50 lakhs, 8137 001255

**HINDU, 34,** divorced, NRI, BE, 30 lakhs, 8137 003550

**GROOM WANTED** SC (AD), 26yrs, CA, Well Educated Family background in Chennai. Contact: 9176491777

**HINDU SC** 27 MA B.Ed M.Phil professor private college seeks groom. Ph: 89395 50891 / 73583 33487

✔ **HINDU, SC, Tamil, 26, 168, BBA LLB,LLM, Lawyer,Capital Markets, Mumbai seeks well educated Tamil boys. ph:9152236196**

### TAMIL

**BRIDEGROOM WANTED**

**SEER KARUNEEGAR (Veg)**

**Age 28 years good looking bright Bride Unmarried MS (IT) Software Engineer & UiUx Designer USA / New York City is looking for Suitable Unmarried Bride Groom (Veg) Doctor / Engineer Working in USA base from South India. Caste no bar.**

**Ct : 9486171087 / 9443161587 / 9500883162**

**GROOM WANTED** Hindu Nadar, 25yrs, M.sc (UK), Running Own Industries Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

**SC AD** 24/M.A[Eng.]C.Govt. Job [Ministry of Defence] 1Lakh p.m. Govt.or Pvt.Seeks Bridegroom. Ph:7397674481

**HINDU PILLAI,** 28/163, MBBS,M.S., fair, good looking. seeks groom Pref. medical from allied communities. Contact Parent 9944751704, 8248333214

**AGE 42,** 2nd marriage, Divorcee, No Child. Seeks suitable Groom. caste No bar. Ct: 7708700879 / 9841817000

**BRIDEGROOM WANTED**

**SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR,**

**40 yrs, 154 Cms, B.E., MBA., M.S. (Boston) U.S.A., Hastham, Kanni, Sr.Manager in RBC in Canada. Family is well settled – Looking for affluent family match in Sengunthar / Agamudaiyar / Vellalar in INDIA / USA / CANADA**

**9843092595**

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Personalized & Confidential Service for the Elites
ELITE BRIDES WANTED
BRAHMIN, 28, 183 cms, Business, MS-IT from a premier institute. Lives in New York, US. Parents are Working Professionals, Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from any Brahmin Community. Contact:6366448343
PILLAI, 29, 175 cms, MS working professional. Lives in USA. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from USA Contact: 6366448344
MUDALIYAR/CASTE NO BAR, 32, 175 cms, Business Professional, MBA from IIT. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match across India. Contact: 6366448344
ELITE GROOMS WANTED
BRAHMIN, 27, 165 cms, Accounts Professional, Masters in Management. Lives in Bangalore. Family is into Business and is financially well off. Looking for a well educated match from Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, UAE. Contact: 6366448343
BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 27, 160 cms Not working, MBA from a premier Institute, Business. The Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match with business background and similar community across India. Contact: 6366448344
MUDALIYAR, 26, 160 cms, Professional, BA Psychology. Lives in Singapore. Parents are working Professionals. Looking for a well educated match from Singapore. Contact: 6366448343
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### TAMIL

**ALLIANCE INVITED** from professional working in Dublin or European Union for Hindu Adi Dravida Tamil girl 28 CA trainee employed with Deloitte Dublin beautiful slightly chubby. Caste and language no bar. Ct: 9148024495

**CANADIAN PR, Hindu, Tamil Agamudaiyar female,30, 167/60, invites Hindu, Canadian PR Tamil groom,32–34, employed, white collar/blue collar, H>170.Horoscope not seen. Brokers Pl excuse. Whatsapp only: +1 3439885587/+91 9962756496.**

**VELLALAR /** PILLAI 30 B.E.MBA (IIM) AGM MNC Bangalore 30L PA Seeks DOCTOR Officer Govt PSU IIM IIT NIT Groom. CNB. 9994113213.

**MUDALIAR CHENNAI** 34yrs/161 cm B.Tech.MBA Fair Not employed Virgo Chithirai. Seeks Mudaliar/Pillai. 7305705497

**SEEKING ALLIANCE** for IIM Qualified girl 28/165cm /35 LPA from Agamudayar community. Vegetarian. Working in Pune. The groom is expected to be equally qualified and earning. Ready to relocate. Alliance from other backward communities is also ok. Call: 9969921961

**MUDALIAR 24** BE, MBA 163Cm Good Looking, well Settled Family, Seeks Groom CNB Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

**HINDU, 31,** Naidu, Divorced, Phd, 10crores, NRI. 8137001255

**HINDU, 33,** any caste, ME, 15 crores, NRI. 8138900312

**HINDU, 31,** any caste, Canada, 20 crores. 9072777822

**Hindu SC** ADI Dravidar 38/157 cm PG MBA. Govt. employee @ Chennai divorce no child seeks suitable groom. Ph: 87786 30870

**TAMIL HINDU** Nadar, B.Tech (CS) working in Cisco, Bangalore, Rs 25LPA 31yrs/160cm , Moolam / Dhanush seeks groom with similar background. Brokers excuse. Ph: 91768 00819

**MUDALIAR 25/**165, Beautiful, B. Tech, Own Textile Mills, Elite Family,300 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

**HINDU SC** AD 33 MCA working Seeks Suitable Groom CNB Chennai Ph 8610410886.

### TAMIL

**SC (AD),** 28yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9710093999

**Hindu SC** (AD) 26yrs, BSc (Maths) Working as Teacher, well educated family background in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bridegroom. Ct: 94442 15959 (Father), 73059 15303 (Mother)

**Seeking a** Bangalore settled well Educated Groom from a Decent Family for 28 Years 5.3 height B.com MBA (SC) Tamil Girl Working as Sr. Asso Contact: 9886429482

**Require Groom**
for (40yr-divorcee) very fair and beautiful, highly placed with **MNC Software Professional** (presently living Abroad) Seeks Affectionate Cheerful, Enthusiastic Well Employed Groom.

**CONTACT 9843110021/9344829680**

**Groom Wanted**
Ezhuthachan + Iyengar **GIRL** 167 cm, from Bangalore 29, **Masters & Undergraduate from prestigious US university**, studied & worked in US, moved to India & Working in Bangalore, **seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30-35)** settled in India or abroad & supportive of her career. Girl's family Respectable, well educated, progressive, worked in technology sector – settled in Bangalore. Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to **9886128948**. Email: **kjayak@gmail.com**

### TAMIL

**BRIDEGROOM WANTED**

**SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR,**

**26 Yrs. 154 cms, B.Com Hons., MBA., Into father's Business, Family is financially well off. Looking for affluent family match in Sengundhar/Agamudayar/ Vellalar in Pondicherry only.**

**9443469444**

**VELLALAR PILLAI,** Non–Veg 28/166cm, ME(CS), Senior Dev in leading Software Co, Chennai. Kadagam/Poosam. Seeking well–settled, professionally qualified groom (MNC / Govt/ Business) from respectable family. Send BHP to: sakthiservices26@gmail.com Cell: 87780 43772, 98840 99966

**Hindu SC/AD** Age 38 BE Software Engr. in TCS, Chennai. Rs.1.40Lak/pm seeks suitable Qualified Employed Groom. Ct: 9952147216 / 8838034943

**MBBS MD** doing DM Medical Oncology in Chennai 30 years Bharani Saiva pillai looking Doctor, Govt. Bank officer, Professional groom from Saiva pillai Chettiar Mudaliar Karkarthar working in Chennai. Ct: 9444855751.

**Hindu Tamil** AD 27, MA (Eng), Ph.D., Asst. Prof., Chennai, seeks suitablegroom.CNB.9444441495, 7904040791

### TELUGU

**HINDU /** NAIDU 91 born Dr. Girl MBBS, MD Simham / Magam seeks MD, MS, MCH boy, any Naidu / any Tamil BC/MBC. Ct Parents: 94446 73311

**GROOM WANTED** Kamma Naidu, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, Very Elite business family Contact: 6385293227

**GROOM WANTED** Kamma Naidu, 29yrs, B.Tech, Elite Industrial background in Chennai Contact: 6385293227

**RICH NAIDU,** 35yrs, MBBS, MS, Running own Hospitals in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

## BRIDES WANTED

### COSMOPOLITAN

**SMART MATURE** 27, 178cm, well–educated (double MS), EU–based professional. Affluent business family. Seeks compatible bride. Community/ language no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

**THEVAR. 34/**182. B. Arch.(NIT,Trichy) & M. Des.(NID,Ahmedabad). From an affluent family. Owns a furniture design studio at Auroville. Seeks a bride from a decent & educated family. CNB. Ct: 9361864646, 8826238299.

**36 YRS,** B.Tech mgr govt Bank salary 1.5 LPM owning properties in Ch, Seeking alliances CNB. 9940507235

### DIVORCEE

**AD/42** DIVORCEE Fair MS Engineering (PhD in US) 12 Lac/PerAnnum. Needs Employed Bride / CNB.Ct: 7358485802

**SMART 51YRS** divorcee,Issueless, high salary seeks partner w/o issues,caste no bar,No demands. Ct:9841672014

**BALIJA NAIDU** 46/183 Fair, handsome MS(USA) based entrepreneur from Chennai, divorcee No issues seeks compatible bride. Whatsapp: 8056144909

**SINCERE, ACTIVE** 50, 173cm, successful business owner, widower, responsible father (2 independent sons, 21+).Seeks compatible bride. Religion /CNB. Call / WA 93456 34365

### HINDI

**SEEKING A** bride for our U.S.–born son, 173 cm tall, 155 lbs, good–looking, fair complexion, holding a Master's degree in Education and working as an educator. We are a respectable and well–connected family, and he values Indian traditions along with a modern outlook. Looking for an educated, English–speaking Indian girl aged 25–30 (Rajput preferred, open to all castes), preferably residing in the USA; contact: RWertzberger66@gmail.com.

### MALAYALAM

**ALLIANCE INVITED** for my Son, 29 Years, 183cm Tall. PG in Economics. Hindu, Kerala, Thiyya. Lead Data Engineer – MNC. Annual Income from job 30 lakh. Family Manufacturing business in Chennai with Annual Revenue in excess of 15 Cr. A Mechanical engineer from a business family will be a good match. E mail: paloran.m@gmail.com 9600046704

**EZHAVA DOCTOR,** Makam, 01.06.1998, 163cm/74KG, second year PG (DNB-General Medicine), Father Business man, Mother Teacher, Sister Doctor, place Thiruvananthapuram. Well financial back ground. Seeks alliance from Doctor or other professional fair girls. 9895115800.

**MUSLIM BOY,** Keralite, 33 yrs, 183 cm, divorced by mutual consent (no issues), from a well-to-do family. Engineer, MS (UK), MBA (Canada) from reputed universities. Canadian PR holder. Seeking suitable alliance. WhatsApp: 8921387957.

### DOCTOR

**BRIDE WANTED**

**26 year old Doctor groom, US Citizen from affluent doctor family is looking for suitable bride, preferably from Kongu Vellala Gounder/ similar community living or willing to move to US.**

**WhatsApp on**

**94884 70259**

### DOCTOR

**DOCTOR MD** 33 mutual divorced intercaste Hindu – Christian Caste No Bar. Seeks Doctor other degree willing to settle in Trichy city. No expectation. Ct: 98430 75979.

**Hindu, SC(AD),** 28/170cm MBBS, MD Final year Chennai. Seeks Good Looking Doctor Bride below 27 yrs. CNB Ct: 9841897953 / 9710668449

**Tamil Yadav** (CNB) Age 26, Height 168, MD (PSM). Chennai. Contact - Details: 9840235312.

### FINANCE / BANKING

**MANAGER, SBI,** 32. Seeks independent, broad–minded Tamil or Malayali woman as life partner. People into caste/ religion/ horoscope pl. excuse. Ct: 9789227517 (Whatsapp only).

**KERALITE NAIR** 36yrs 168cm Btech Manager. Canara bank Manipal. Modest and Godfearing girls. Convenient, WhatsApp message Father 7012087429

### HINDI

**1985/175CM,** 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

### MALAYALAM

**Menon, 27/** 168cm, Chennai based, Educated, MNC Employed, well settled, seeks suitable Bride. Email Id: mbmadhu38@gmail.com. Whatsapp +6281574513228

### NRI

**NAIDU, 32/**180CM, BTECH, MS, Pooratathi, Research Engineer working in Sweden, call: 9566682220

### SAURASTRA

**CNB BC** 40 1st Marriage Astham Kani MBA Finance 1.5L pm Suitable Bride Required Parents Contact 9444735240

### TAMIL

**CHRISTIAN, 33,** Divorced, BE, 50 lakhs. PH: 9072777822

**CHRISTIAN, 27,** BE, Private, 50 lakhs. PH: 8138900470

**CSI CHRISTIAN** Nadar 29yrs MS holds 140 status well settled in USA & India seeks same community student, H1B Visa, or Citizen. Ct: 9382266099

**TAMIL MUSLIM** 28/174 MD Radiology seeks prof qualified bride Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

### TELUGU

**GAVARA NAIDU,** 32, B.Tech (Hons) DLL & AL Star Ashwini, Group II officer Revenue Dept, Only child, upper middle class, Father Ex–CRPF seeks Civil service Group I/ II groom from good family background. 9003450802

**NAIDU 26/**167, Fair, Beautiful, MBA, Own Star Hotel, Elite Family, 200 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

**44 Yrs** /165cm/SWE/Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar, seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

**GROOM WANTED** Rich Naidu, 30yrs, Divorce, MBA,well educated background in Chennai. Contact: 9962791888

**1000 CRORES** TELUGU CHETTIYAR, 25/B.E.,MS.,Famous Jewellery in T.Nagar, Seeks Rich Groom(Any Telugu OK)9042601479

**500CRORES TELUGU** Kamma naidu 26 MBA Own Kalyana Mandapam Petrol Bunks Own Satellite TV etc., Rich Family seeks Groom7904211072

### URDU

**SMU 1993** Born bride/167 MBBS, MD, Chennai. Seeks Doctor groom from good family. Whatsapp/Ct:9585547701

**SMU 1991** Born/170cms Well–Settled MD Doctor from Chennai. Seeking Alliance from Doctors, Engineers from Well–Settled Family Ct: 9444551651

**SUNNI MUSLIM** Urdu, Chennai, 26/ 165cm, currently completing her MS in US. Parents seek suitable, well–educated groom from respectable family. US resident preferred. Contact: 9790765547 WhatsApp.

**SUNNI MUSLIM,** Never married, 41/ 165cm, Tall, MS, PhD, MBA (all degrees from the USA), senior pharma AI executive, well settled in the US. Seeks sunni muslim Groom preferably never married or widowed/divorced with no kids, 41–50yrs old, well educated & well settled in the US. Ct:9840270993/ Email.riazur12@gmail.com

**SMU 1996** born Bride 163 MBBS-2022 Vizag seeks Groom (Doc/Engr/Profsnl) Ph: 9291328926 (Bride's Grandpa).

### TAMIL

**CHRISTIAN, 35/** 170cm, Divorcee, B.E. M.S (USA) Work Permit. Looking for a Suitable Bride working at USA Ct: 9003212573

**CHRISTIAN, 25,** Bornagain, NRI, 30 Crores, 8138 900316

**CHRISTIAN, 2nd** marriage, MBBS, 20crores, 7356 483111.

**M.E. GRADUATE** of 29 yr old working in Chennai. Seeking bride of age 23–27 B.E or any master degree, working or willing to work. Ct: 9361134612

**CHRISTIAN, 29,** MBA, Private, 50 lakhs. 9048444858

**CHRISTIAN, 31,** Rich, 70 lakhs, Doctor, 2nd marriage. 8138900470

**MUSLIM, NRI,** 25, Rich, 45 lakhs. 9072777811

**CHRISTIAN, 27,** NRI, 18 crores, Rich. 8138900652

**RC CHRISTIAN,** 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

**MUDALIAR, 38/172.5,** BE, 70 LPA, working as a Software consultant in Sweden. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured & educated family. Ph: 9994773572/ 9901344995

**SENGUNTHAR DOCTOR,** 36/183 Divorced no issues, broad minded groom from affluent family seeks suitable professional bride b/w age 29-32 & Ht: 160-170cm, slim Divorced / never married. Caste no bar. Send BHP to palanikumarraaja@gmail.com

**SAIVA Pillai CNB M.Sc MBA 4Lakh/ month Company owner 20 crores property only son 173 cm Visagam 47yrs unmarried. W.app-9841553677**

**Sengunthar Mudhaliar** Kettai 31/175 IFS(Forest) Officer,well educated family seeks Doctor Bride.CT: 9443428948

**WANTED GOOD** looking educated bride for IIT educated 33yrs old Tamil family boy working in Bangalore. Ct: +91 98402 54805

**KALLAR 39,** Star Kettai, BE (ECE) Dy Manager–Telecom Located at Trichy & Madurai, Seeks Suitable Bride Caste No Bar Ct:9443923062/ 9514349990

**HINDU, SC,** Tamil, 33, 170, MS, SWE, MNC in USA, H1B, I140, $230K, affluent family in Chennai seeks well educated south Indian girl in abroad / India.Caste no bar.Ct 9445442020

**CNB BDS** Surgeon, MBA (UK) Hospital Mgmt & Health Care, working as CEO in Bangalore Hospital, Divorcee no issues 1981 seeks Rich or PQ Dr/ Engr/ IT bride. V.J.Naidu 9886782390 or 9962246305

**AUDITOR/ 46** Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian, Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

**42Y, HANDSOME,**FAIR,176CM, non–smoker & teetotaler, Divorced, Legal consultant&Entreprenuer, well settled in Chennai Ph: 9840234030

**AGAMUDAIYAR 41** MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9445612997

**MUDALIAR M.COM** 48 1st Marriage 20 Laks PA. Own House Chennai. Seeks Mudaliar 1st Marriage Girl 9444001582

**WELL Settled** Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

**29YR DOCTOR** MD Anesthesia Living in Chennai seeking SC Bride MD/MS Parents 8148000760/9445244717

**NADAR, 37,** Divorcee no kids M.E, Ph D. Prof. Engg. College, Chennai. 1.2L p/m. Seeks suitable Bride Caste, Religion no bar. Ct: 9443269548

**MBA, DOB:11/**1979 Viruchigam, Kettai, 1St Marriage, Chennai Own House.Wanted suitable Bride.Ct: 9383002003

**SEEKING INDEPENDENT** Divorced (No Child) / Unmarried Bride for 45 Yrs, Well Settled Unmarried Groom, Own House in T.Nagar, Professional, Caste No Bar, Ct: 89250–54774

**OUR SON,** 29 years Electrical Engineer. Educated bride from a good, pet–friendly family preferred. Veterinary/animal–care professionals welcome. Apply: geethanarayanan72@gmail.com. WhatsApp 7358773357.

**REMARRIAGE CHETTIYAR** Kannada Devangar Chennai Age:29 Own Company Upper Middle Class Ct:9788663074

**HINDU, 44,** NRI, 20 crores, VIP. PH: 8138901294

**HINDU, 28,** Fair and handsome, UK, 10 crores. PH: 9048444858

**TAMIL PILLAI** MCA 45/180CM working MNC in US divorcee no child 6 lakhs per month, looking for a bride from decent fmly. CNB. 98943 44178

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

# e-Auction process has commenced Time is of Essence

## Register Now!!!

Shri N.A. Haris
Hon'ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency
& Chairman BDA

## Bid Now!!
**Minimum raise of Bid Price in multiples of Rs. 500 per sq. mtr.**

The Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru, announces the e-Auction of Residential & Commercial Corner / Intermediate Sites. The auction / sale of these sites is conducted in accordance with the Bangalore Development Authority's Disposal of Corner Sites, Intermediate Sites and other Auctionable Sites Rules, 1984. The sites are auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS.

**Date of Commencement of e-Auction: 23.02.2026**

**Last date & time to express interest of participation in e-Auction: 07.03.2026, 5.00 p.m. IST**

### Date of commencement of Live Bidding For Sl. No. 1 to 52: 09.03.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
### Last date for bid closing: 10.03.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

| Sl. No. | Site No. | Dimensions in Metres: East to West | Dimensions in Metres: North to South | Area in Sq. Mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arkavathy Layout, 2nd Block, Sampigehalli** | | | | |
| 1 | 16 | (6.60+7.35)/2 | 12.00 | 83.70 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 7th Block, Jakkur** | | | | |
| 2 | 32 | (7.20+3.60)/2 | 24.00 | 129.60 |
| 3 | 52 | (6.60+1.30)/2 | 18.00 | 71.10 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 3rd Block, Sampigehalli** | | | | |
| 4 | 117 | (4.80+3.80)/2 | 9.00 | 38.70 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 16th Block, Thanisandra** | | | | |
| 5 | 303 | 10 | 8.60 | 86.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 96250/-, Contact : 9980402882** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 1st Block, Jakkur** | | | | |
| 6 | 474 | 12 | (10.70+9.83)/2 | 123.18 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 3rd Block, Venkateshpura** | | | | |
| 7 | 677 | 9 | (9.00+6.00)/2 | 67.50 |
| 8 | 757 | (6.20+3.50)/2 | 9.00 | 43.65 |
| 9 | 758 | (8.60+12.2)/2 | 12.00 | 124.80 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 8217795990** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 3rd Block, Sampigehalli** | | | | |
| 10 | 785 | (8.00+9.20)/2 | 12.00 | 103.20 |
| 11 | 859 | (9.10+7.20)/2 | 12.00 | 97.80 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 8th Block, Venkateshpura** | | | | |
| 12 | 1003 | (7.60+7.90)/2 | 9.00 | 69.75 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 8217795990** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 20th Block, Thanisandra** | | | | |
| 13 | 1088 | 9 | (12.2+12.00)/2 | 108.90 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 96250/-, Contact : 9980402882** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 7th Block, Jakkur** | | | | |
| 14 | 3020 | (4.00+4.10)/2 | 12.00 | 48.60 |
| 15 | 1509A | 24 | 0.5x11 | 132.00 |
| 16 | 2599A | 9 | (4+3.60)/2 | 34.20 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 17th Block, Geddalahalli** | | | | |
| 17 | GH111A | 12 | (7.00+7.50)/2 | 87.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 75000/-, Contact : 8722433608** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 17th Block, K. Narayanapura** | | | | |
| 18 | KNP227 | (14.00+14.60)2 | 18.00 | 257.40 |
| 19 | KNP306 | 4.7 | 18.00 | 84.60 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 75000/-, Contact : 8217795990** | | | | |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 3rd Block, Sampigehalli** | | | | |
| 20 | SH211A | (8.00+6.50)/2 | 12.00 | 87.00 |
| 21 | SH227C | 7 | 12.00 | 84.00 |
| **Arkavathy Layout, 2nd Block, Sampigehalli** | | | | |
| 22 | SH256 | 4.5 | 12.00 | 64.80 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 7349388238** | | | | |

| Sl. No. | Site No. | Dimensions in Metres: East to West | Dimensions in Metres: North to South | Area in Sq. Mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Arkavathy Layout, 15th Block, Thanisandra** | | | | |
| 23 | TS484 | 17.5 | (9.00+7.00)/2 | 140.00 |
| 24 | TS875 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 25 | TS876 | (11.5+12.00)/2 | (8.5+7.5)/2 | 94.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 96250/-, Contact : 9980402882** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 5th Stage, Bikasipura** | | | | |
| 26 | 53 | 18.29 | (2.70+11.80)/2 | 132.60 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 93000/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th T Block, Talaghattapura** | | | | |
| 27 | 14 | 18 | (12.20+8.10)/2 | 182.70 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 8th Block, Hemmigepura** | | | | |
| 28 | 147 | (6.4+10.8)/2 | 18.00 | 154.80 |
| 29 | 167 | 11 | 18.00 | 198.00 |
| 30 | 222 | (16.2+10.5)/2 | 18.00 | 240.30 |
| 31 | 255 | (6+10.5)/2 | 18.00 | 148.50 |
| 32 | 516 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 33 | 565 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 34 | 566 | 18 | (15.8+16)/2 | 286.20 |
| 35 | 577 | 18 | 9.00 | 162.00 |
| 36 | 588 | 18 | (12.5+12)/2 | 220.50 |
| 37 | 626 | 11 | 18.00 | 198.00 |
| 38 | 652 | 12 | 6.60 | 79.20 |
| 39 | 689 | 12 | (6+6.3)/2 | 73.80 |
| 40 | 701 | 12 | 8.30 | 99.60 |
| 41 | 711 | 12 | (6+6.3)/2 | 73.80 |
| 42 | 712 | 12 | (6.6+6.3)/2 | 77.40 |
| 43 | 722 | 12 | (8+8.3)/2 | 97.80 |
| 44 | 730 | 18 | 11.50 | 207.00 |
| 45 | 758 | 18 | (11.5+12)/2 | 211.50 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73500/-, Contact : 9880946840** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 2nd Block, Turahalli** | | | | |
| 46 | 559 | 9 | 11.20 | 100.80 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69000/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Hemmigepura** | | | | |
| 47 | 632 | (3.00+12.00)/2 | 24.00 | 180.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 10th Block, Hemmigepura** | | | | |
| 48 | 686 | 9 | (3.4+3.95)/2 | 33.07 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 62300/-, Contact : 9880946840** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block, Sompura** | | | | |
| 49 | 872 | 12 | (9.5+13.7)/2 | 139.20 |
| 50 | 1483 | 12 | (8.7+12)/2 | 104.40 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73000/-, Contact : 9880946840** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 11th Block, Ganakallu** | | | | |
| 51 | 914 | (2.00+5.50)/2 | 12.00 | 45.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Lingadeeranahalli** | | | | |
| 52 | 1487 | 24 | (15+39.90)/2 | 658.80 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |

### Date of commencement of Live Bidding For Sl. No. 53 to 104: 10.03.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
### Last date for bid closing: 11.03.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

| Sl. No. | Site No. | Dimensions in Metres: East to West | Dimensions in Metres: North to South | Area in Sq. Mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block, Sompura** | | | | |
| 53 | 1503 | 12 | (8+7.5)/2 | 93.00 |
| 54 | 1519 | 18 | (28.5+17.00)/2 | 409.50 |
| 55 | 1527 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 56 | 1528 | 18 | (12+12.5)/2 | 220.50 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73000/-, Contact : 9880946840** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Lingadeeranahalli** | | | | |
| 57 | 1547 | 18 | (29.00+10.00)/2 | 351.00 |
| 58 | 1548 | 18 | (15.00+33.00)/2 | 432.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block, Sompura** | | | | |
| 59 | 1565 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 60 | 1566 | 18 | (11.5+12)/2 | 211.50 |
| 61 | 1598 | 12 | (9+12)/2 | 126.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 73000/-, Contact : 9880946840** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Lingadeeranahalli** | | | | |
| 62 | 1619 | 18 | (28.00+12.00)/2 | 360.00 |
| 63 | 1620 | 18 | (6.30+24)/2 | 272.70 |
| 64 | 1654 | 18 | (31.00+14.50)/2 | 409.50 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 2nd Block, Turahalli** | | | | |
| 65 | 1086/A | 15 | 24.00 | 360.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69000/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 5th Block, Lingadeeranahalli** | | | | |
| 66 | 1640/26 | (8.80+8.70)/2 | 18.00 | 157.50 |
| 67 | 1640/29 | (19+70+7.00)/2 | 18.00 | 240.30 |
| 68 | 1640/30 | (19.50+7.70)/2 | 18.00 | 244.80 |
| 69 | 1640/33 | (8.00+8.70)/2 | 18.00 | 157.30 |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, Lingadeeranahalli** | | | | |
| 70 | 2377/Q | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 7th Block, Sompura** | | | | |
| 71 | 27/K | (13.5+13)/2 | 24.00 | 318.00 |
| 72 | 28/J | (12.7+14)/2 | 18.00 | 240.30 |

| Sl. No. | Site No. | Dimensions in Metres: East to West | Dimensions in Metres: North to South | Area in Sq. Mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Banashankari 6th Stage, 1st Block, Hulimavu** | | | | |
| 73 | 287 | 12.19 | 18.28 | 222.83 |
| 74 | 290 | 12.19 | 18.28 | 222.83 |
| 75 | 291 | 12.19 | 18.28 | 222.83 |
| 76 | 292 | 12.19 | 18.28 | 222.83 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 90000/-, Contact : 8310525317** | | | | |
| **East of NGEF, Banasawadi** | | | | |
| 77 | 4BM409 | 13.5 M | 14.5 M | 195.75 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,40,000/-, Contact : 8722433608** | | | | |
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'B' Block, BM Kaval** | | | | |
| 78 | 25 | 12 | (12.50+11.30)/2 | 142.80 |
| 79 | 36 | 12 | (8.00+8.30)/2 | 97.80 |
| 80 | 37 | 12 | (9.50+8.30)/2 | 106.80 |
| 81 | 48 | 12 | (10.00+11.30)/2 | 127.80 |
| 82 | 49 | 12 | (12.60+11.30)/2 | 143.40 |
| 83 | 60 | 12 | (8.00+10.00)/2 | 108.00 |
| 84 | 61 | 12 | (12.00+10.00)/2 | 132.00 |
| 85 | 72 | 12 | (11.30+10.00)/2 | 127.80 |
| 86 | 73 | 12 | (12.00+11.00)/2 | 138.00 |
| 87 | 420 | 18 | 14.00 | 252.00 |
| 88 | 424 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 89 | 435 | 18 | (10.50+14.00)/2 | 220.50 |
| 90 | 443 | (12.00+9.00)/2 | 18.00 | 189.00 |
| 91 | 446 | 12 | 18.00 | 216.00 |
| 92 | 752 | (11.50+12.00)/2 | 18.00 | 211.50 |
| 93 | 802 | 18 | 12.00 | 216.00 |
| 94 | 905 | 12 | 18.00 | 216.00 |
| 95 | 938 | (7.00+12.50)/2 | 18.00 | 175.50 |
| 96 | 989 | 13 | 18.00 | 234.00 |
| 97 | 1004 | (12.00+14.00)/2 | 18.00 | 234.00 |
| 98 | 1059 | (13.00+14.00)/2 | 18.00 | 243.00 |
| 99 | 1064 | (13.00+14.00)/2 | 18.00 | 243.00 |
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'T' Block, Talaghattapura** | | | | |
| 100 | 1087 | 6 | 9.00 | 54.00 |
| 101 | 1088 | 6.2 | 9.00 | 55.80 |
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'B' Block, BM Kaval** | | | | |
| 102 | 1109 | (15.00+14.00)/2 | 18.00 | 261.00 |
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'T' Block, Talaghattapura** | | | | |
| 103 | 1132 | (6.00+5.50)/2 | 9.00 | 51.75 |
| 104 | 1133 | (5.00+5.50)/2 | 9.00 | 47.25 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |

### Date of commencement of Live Bidding For Sl. No. 105 to 158: 11.03.2026, 11.00 a.m. IST
### Last date for bid closing: 12.03.2026 up to 5.00 p.m. (Delta time 5.00 minutes)

| Sl. No. | Site No. | Dimensions in Metres: East to West | Dimensions in Metres: North to South | Area in Sq. Mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'T' Block, Talaghattapura** | | | | |
| 105 | 1159 | (2.60+2.40)/2 | 9.00 | 22.50 |
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'B' Block, Talaghattapura** | | | | |
| 106 | 1454 | 8 | 12.00 | 96.00 |
| 107 | 1435/A | 9 | 12.00 | 108.00 |
| **Further Extension of Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th 'B' Block, B.M. Kaval** | | | | |
| 108 | 803/A | 12 | 18.00 | 216.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 69300/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Further Extension of Matadalli, Matadalli** | | | | |
| 109 | 15 | (15.00+14.50)/2 | 11.70 | 172.57 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,57,500/-, Contact : 8217795990** | | | | |
| **Further Extension of RMV 2nd Stage, Bhoopasandra** | | | | |
| 110 | 14 | 8.8 | 12.30 | 108.24 |
| 111 | 18 | 15.24 | 22.86 | 348.38 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,66,500/-, Contact : 8722433608** | | | | |
| **Further Extension of Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 7th Block, Gidadakonenahalli** | | | | |
| 112 | 1164 | 12 | 8.00 | 96.00 |
| 113 | 1080/10 | 9 | 10.15 | 91.35 |
| 114 | 1081/1 | 12 | 8.80 | 105.60 |
| 115 | 1142/1 | 9 | 3.35 | 30.15 |
| 116 | 1161/1 | 11 | 6.50 | 71.50 |
| **Further Extension of Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 7th Block, Herohalli** | | | | |
| 117 | 253/61 | 12 | 9.00 | 108.00 |
| 118 | 253/68 | 11.8 | 5.80 | 68.44 |
| 119 | 253/69 | 12 | 9.00 | 108.00 |
| 120 | 253/86 | 12 | 9.00 | 108.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 87500/-, Contact : 8147510380** | | | | |
| **HBR 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Kacharakanahalli** | | | | |
| 121 | 340 | 15 | 12.19 | 182.85 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,71,500/-, Contact : 8722433608** | | | | |
| **HBR 1st Stage, 5th Block, Hennur** | | | | |
| 122 | 858 | 18.28 | 11.00 | 201.08 |
| 123 | 195/A | 13.5 | 24.00 | 324.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,63,000/-, Contact : 8722433608** | | | | |
| **Kumaraswamy 2nd Stage, Govinayakanahlli** | | | | |
| 124 | 2296/B | (8.00+11.40)/2 | 12.50 | 121.25 |
| 125 | 3620/A | (9.00+5.00)/2 | 12.00 | 84.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 1,27,000/-, Contact : 9591964603** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 126 | 83 | 12 | 7.50 | 90.00 |
| 127 | 84 | 12 | 7.20 | 86.40 |
| 128 | 107 | 12 | 8.00 | 96.00 |
| 129 | 124 | 12 | 8.50 | 102.00 |
| 130 | 128 | 12 | 9.00 | 108.00 |
| 131 | 145 | 12 | 9.00 | 108.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84000/-, Contact : 7975861995** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 2nd Block, Ramasandra** | | | | |
| 132 | 166 | 12 | 18.00 | 216.00 |
| 133 | 167 | 12 | 18.00 | 216.00 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 6362956998** | | | | |

| Sl. No. | Site No. | Dimensions in Metres: East to West | Dimensions in Metres: North to South | Area in Sq. Mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 134 | 981 | 18 | 3.20 | 57.60 |
| 135 | 1091 | 10.7 | 4.20 | 44.94 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 7975861995** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 2nd Block, Ramasandra** | | | | |
| 136 | 1209 | 8.8 | 12.00 | 105.60 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 6362956998** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 137 | 1230 | 12 | 6.10 | 73.20 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 7975861995** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 1st Block, Ramasandra** | | | | |
| 138 | 1250 | 8.8 | 12.00 | 105.60 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 139 | 1261 | 12 | 2.31 | 27.72 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 140 | 1355 | 11 | (11.00+11.40)/2 | 123.20 |
| 141 | 1378 | 18 | 9.10 | 163.80 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 142 | 1387 | 12 | 6.50 | 78.00 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 143 | 1391 | 18 | 10.30 | 185.40 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 7975861995** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 4th Block, Ramasandra** | | | | |
| 144 | 1398 | 12.0 | 6.50 | 78.00 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 3rd Block, Sonnenahalli** | | | | |
| 145 | 1498 | 12 | 9.40 | 112.80 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 8904504938** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 146 | 2313 | 12 | 6.60 | 79.20 |
| 147 | 2332 | 12 | 6.50 | 78.00 |
| 148 | 2345 | 12 | 8.00 | 96.00 |
| 149 | 2351 | 17.5 | 18.00 | 315.00 |
| 150 | 2385 | (8.30+8.50)/2 | 12.00 | 100.80 |
| 151 | 2622 | (10.00+9.50)/2 | 18.00 | 175.50 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 7975861995** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 4th Block, Ramasandra** | | | | |
| 152 | 3314 | 24 | 12.80 | 307.20 |
| 153 | 3323 | 24 | 12.80 | 307.20 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 8904504938** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 1st Block, Ramasandra** | | | | |
| 154 | 1245/B | 8.8 | 12.00 | 105.60 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 6362956998** | | | | |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 155 | 1973/A | 4.2 | 12.00 | 50.40 |
| 156 | 559/B | 24 | (2.5+4.5)/2 | 84.00 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 3rd Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 157 | 693A | 12 | (7.50+6.50)/2 | 84.00 |
| **Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 6th Block, Ullalu** | | | | |
| 158 | 755A | 18 | 9.30 | 167.40 |
| **Initial bid price per Sq.Mtr. is Rs. 84,000/-, Contact : 7975861995** | | | | |

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR e-AUCTION

(1) The auction purchaser should be a Citizen of India.

(2) Address proof: Any one of the following documents attested by a Gazetted Officer / Notary / Embassy Office (in the case of NRIs) shall be uploaded:- a) Voter ID, b) Driving License, c) Passport, d) Unique ID number (Aadhaar).

(3) Uploading of PAN Card in e-auction portal is compulsory (Should be attested by Gazetted Officer/Notary/Attested by Embassy Office in case of N.R.I.).

(4) Signature & Photo Identity should be uploaded on the e-Auction portal [Attested by a Gazetted Officer / Notary / Embassy Office (in the case of NRIs)]. Please download the prescribed format.

(5) The auction purchaser shall mention correct e-Mail address, mobile number and landline number while participating in the e-Auction. The bidder whose name is registered in the e-procurement is final and the site will not be transferred to any other name.

(6) **Minors / persons without computer knowledge are eligible to participate in the auction through their guardians or friends. While doing so, the name and related documents of only the person purchasing the property must be submitted / uploaded on the e-Auction portal while participating in the e-Auction.**

(7) Partnership firm may participate in the auction. However, the partnership firm should have been registered in India before participating in the auction.

(8) EMD amount is fixed at Rs.4.00 lakhs (Rupees Four Lakhs only) per site and this amount along with the e-Auction fee should be remitted as mentioned on the e-Procurement portal. 5% Service charge on EMD shall be deducted during refund if remitted to BDA's account instead of e-Auction Portal.

(9) All legal proceedings in respect of the auction sites are subject to the jurisdiction of Courts in Bengaluru only.

(10) Five minutes of delta time shall be extended to the last moment bids in the e-Auction.

(11) BDA reserves the right to withdraw the sites notified for auction at any time during auction period without assigning any reasons.

(12) BDA reserves the right to accept or reject the bid made by the successful bidder without assigning any reasons.

(13) **Bank Name:- Canara Bank, BDA Complex Branch, Kumara Krupa West, Bengaluru-560020. Savings Account Name:- Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru. Savings Account Number:- 2828101053014 IFSC Code No.:- CNRB0002828 Mode of Payment:- RTGS / NEFT.**

(14) Advice letters will be sent by e-Mail to successful bidders (highest bidders) to remit 25% of the total cost after deducting EMD amount of Rs.4.00 lakhs to the above-mentioned BDA's Bank Account, and the challan for remittance should be submitte to the Accounts Officer, Finance Department ('D' Block, 2nd Floor, Room No.308). In case of failure to remit 25% within stipulated time, as mentioned in the e-auction advised letter, EMD shall be forfeited. Successful bidders after remitting 25% of the final bid amount should pay the balance 75% amount within 45 days of receiving the allotment letter from BDA.

(15) EMD amount of Rs. 4.00 Lakhs of unsuccessful bidders will be credited to their Account within 30 working days (Without Interest).

(16) The auction purchasers who desire to have the sites jointly registered should upload the details of the persons concerned on the e-Portal. Only blood relations, viz., spouse, sons or unmarried daughters are eligible for joint registration along with the auction purchaser. The relationship of such person should be clearly mentioned and any Government ID proof must be attached along with the application. Later such requests shall be rejected.

(17) During bidding, if there are any duplication of Nick names for the same site, such bid will be rejected without assigning any reasons.

(18) **Where 25% of the total cost is not remitted within 72 hours of receiving e-Auction Advice letter by the successful bidders (highest bidders) or where 25% of the total cost is remitted after the prescribed time, the EMD amount of Rs.4.00 lakh shall be forfeited by the Authority.**

(19) As per IT Act, 1961 Sec.194 IA, where the sale consideration exceeds Rs. 50.00 lakhs, the auction purchaser should deduct 1% of the total amount payable and remit the same to the IT Department.

(20) In case there is a difference in the dimension of the site (Less / More), the full amount (less TDS) as per the dimensions in the e-Auction notification / letter of confirmation of auction site has to be remitted within the prescribed time. If the remittance is not made within the prescribed time, action will be taken as per the Disposal of Corner, Intermediate & Commercial Sites Rules, 1984 of BDA. In case there is a difference in actual dimensions of the site (less / more), the excess amount, if any, remitted by the auction purchaser due to lower dimensions shall be refunded by BDA without interest. Similarly, any incremental amount due to higher dimension of the site shall be remitted by the auction purchaser as advised by BDA. Bidder should pay the full amount and then go for correction in dimensions, if any.

(21) Bidder / auction purchaser shall abide by the Disposal of Corner, Intermediate & Commercial Sites Rules, 1984 of BDA (Document is attached as part of the e-Auction documents).

(22) For demonstration of live bidding & learning the process of bidding, visit BDA Head Office during office hours. Bidding by BDA on behalf of a bidder shall not be undertaken during the demonstration.

(23) While participating in the e-auction, the bid amount should exceed the base price by 10% i.e., site measuring 108 $m^2$ has base price @ Rs.45,000/$m^2$. Bidders should quote more than Rs.45,000x1.1=Rs.49,500/$m^2$ (Rs.49,500 if quoted will be rejected). However, BDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reasons.

(24) There should be minimum of 2 bidders for each site. Single bidder will be rejected.

(25) Website address: **https://bdakarnataka.in**

(26) E-auction bidders can download the New e-Auction bidding user manual by logging on to the website **https://bdakarnataka.in** For more information contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **080-46010000 & 080-68948777.**

(27) The auctioned Sites will be allotted to the successful bidders in the same condition as they are. Bidders participating in the e-auction must physically check the location of the site, Road width etc., before bidding. Sites allotted in the e-auction will not be cancelled / substituted.

(28) Bidders participating in E-Auction are meant to adhere to all the terms and conditions specified above.

(29) Regarding the e-Auction, Bidders should contact the Authority directly and should not contact any middle men.

(30) Geo tag of the sites are for reference only. No Claim is entertained if there are any discrepancies in it.

**BIDDERS HAVE TO READ ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE BIDDING AND SHALL PARTICIPATE ACCORDINGLY.**

**Bangalore Development Authority**
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

**For location of sites and other details, log on to https://bdakarnataka.in**
**BDA site related Queries 080-23368435 / 23368036 and KPPP technical issues contact 080-46010000 / 68948777**

**No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-19/2025-26 Date: 13.02.2026**

**Sd/- Engineer Member**

M BG-BGE

# NITK offers alternative emergency communication network using HAM radio

It combines disaster communication, technical education and community outreach using amateur wireless communication system that does not rely on mobile networks or internet

**Rishita Khanna**
BENGALURU

The National Institute of Technology-Karnataka (NITK) Surathkal has built an emergency communication network using HAM radio across parts of coastal Karnataka to train students on how amateur radio can support basic communication needs during emergencies.

The network has been developed under a CSR-funded project titled 'Enabling Multi-disciplinary and Broader Radio Applications for Community Empowerment (EMBRACE)'. The project, implemented at the NITK, combines disaster communication, technical education and community outreach using amateur, or HAM radio, wireless communication system that does not rely on mobile phone networks or internet connectivity.

The technology, as per the project coordinators, becomes relevant during floods, cyclones or power outages, when conventional communication systems are often disrupted.

As part of the project, a fully functional amateur radio facility was established on the NITK campus in Surathkal in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. The facility served as the central hub for training programmes, demonstrations, simulated emergency exercises, and coordination of outreach activities.

To extend the initiative beyond NITK, five HAM radio nodal centres were set up in selected schools and colleges in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Kodagu and Uttara Kannada districts. These centres, as per the institute, were made operational through structured training of students and teachers, supervised by licensed HAM radio operators.

The Diamond X510 antenna installed in NITK as part of the initiative. The technology becomes relevant during floods, cyclones or power outages, when conventional communication systems are often disrupted. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Over time, the institutions began functioning as local learning and practice points for amateur radio and emergency communication.

The project also developed mobile HAM radio units mounted on electric cycles and electric scooters. These mobile units were designed to explain how communication equipment can be moved into affected areas when regular infrastructure is unavailable. The units were used during training sessions and community demonstrations to explain last-mile communication possibilities during emergencies.

The EMBRACE project was led by Pruthviraj Umesh, Associate Professor in the Department of Water Resources and Ocean Engineering and Professor-in-Charge (Transdisciplinary R&D) at NITK, with Mohit P. Tahiliani, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Professor-In-Charge of the Central Computing Centre, serving as co-principal investigator.

**Women participation**

Prof. Umesh said that the project made a conscious effort to increase the participation of girls and young women. "Women-exclusive training sessions and targeted workshops were conducted to address the low representation of women in technical communication fields," he said, adding that the aim was to encourage confidence, leadership and technical skill development among female students from the school level onwards.

To improve accessibility, educational material related to amateur radio and disaster communication was developed in Kannada, English and Hindi. These included video tutorials, printed learning material, and basic laboratory simulation modules to allow institutions to continue using the resources after the project period.

# KAS officer arrested by Lokayukta Police in Shivamogga

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

The Lokayukta Police in Shivamogga on Saturday arrested two persons, including a KAS officer, when they were allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹40,000 from a driver. The arrested are Siddalinga Reddy, Special Land Acquisition Officer for NHAI, and Village Assistant Rajesh.

According to the police, Keshavamurthy of Othighatta village had attached his car to the SLAO office on rent. The officer allegedly demanded a bribe to clear his pending bill. As he was not willing to pay the bribe, he informed the Lokayukta Police.

The Lokayukta Police arrested Rajesh, while he was accepting a bribe near Nehru Stadium in the city, as per the instructions of Siddalinga Reddy. Later, the officers took Siddalinga Reddy into custody.

# Bengaluru-based research institute working on AI tool to improve spacecraft hygiene

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Prayoga Institute of Education Research is developing an AI-assisted instrument for the assessment of anti microbial efficacy of materials used in space applications.

Prayoga has received a grant under ISRO's RESPOND programme for the project, "Studies on antibacterial efficacy assessment for space and terrestrial environments".

Under RESPOND, projects in the advanced areas of relevance to space programmes are encouraged to be taken up by premiere universities and academic institutions.

**Microbial colonies**

"We are developing an automatic colony counter integrated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to detect microbial colonies on the surface. The project aims to develop an AI-assisted instrument for the assessment of antibacterial efficacy of materials used in space applications," Ramya Prabhu, principal investigator of the project, told *The Hindu*.

The two-year project is led by Ms. Ramya with Venkata Krishna, Om Prakash and Sai Harshini serving as co-principal investigators from Prayoga. Ms. Ramya said that the outcomes of this project have applications in future ISRO missions.

"Microbial contamination on abiotic surfaces is a major issue in healthcare, food processing, industrial, and aerospace environments. In hospitals, surfaces that people frequently touch and medical devices can harbor harmful microorganisms. This contributes to infections acquired in healthcare settings. In food processing and storage, germs lingering on surfaces can affect product safety, speed up spoilage, and shorten shelf life," explained Mr. Venkata Krishna.

**Unique challenges**

Mr. Venkata Krishna added that spacecraft environments bring hygiene challenges due to their confined spaces, along with temperature and humidity control that promotes bacterial growth.

"So we want to develop an indigenous automated instrument which can detect microbial colonies for getting reliable, accurate and consistent results," said Mr. Om Prakash.

This project is not restricted to crewed missions. "Microbial presence and contamination can affect and alter spacecraft functioning. So our work has applications in both crewed and non-crewed missions. That said, the instrument we are developing can have applications in medicine and the food industries given the ubiquitous nature of microorganisms," Ms. Ramya said.

# Amid bed crunch, govt. scraps referral requirement at four hospitals under AB-Ark

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet has decided to do away with the mandatory referral requirement under the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-Ark) scheme for certain treatments at four private medical college hospitals in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) limits in Bengaluru, citing a shortage of government hospital beds within the civic body's limits. The relaxation will be implemented on a pilot basis for one year, and treatments will be provided at government-fixed package rates.

The four institutions covered under the decision are St. John's Medical College, M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Medical College Hospital. "This is expected to reduce treatment delays for poor patients by cutting procedural steps and leveraging private medical college infrastructure amid a documented shortage of government hospital beds," Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health, told *The Hindu*.

The move comes after an expert committee, constituted to examine health infrastructure in the GBA, pointed out a significant shortage of government hospital beds within the GBA limits. The GBA currently has around 10,000 beds in the government sector, while the requirement as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms is approximately 13,000 beds. In comparison, the private sector in the GBA has around 22,000 beds.

The Cabinet decision follows a representation submitted by the Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation, which was forwarded to the Health and Family Welfare Department by the Minister for Medical Education. The representation argued that the referral requirement may be waived for private medical colleges that have well-established hospitals and function in accordance with National Medical Commission norms, stating that these institutions are equipped to treat eligible cases directly.

Under the AB-Ark scheme, simple secondary (2A) procedures are currently permitted only in government hospitals. The Health Department officials told the Cabinet that this restriction has created serious challenges for Below Poverty Line families in the GBA in accessing timely and affordable secondary care. It has also been stated that the restriction affects the broader objective of universal health coverage under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and the State's Arogya Karnataka initiative.

The Cabinet has therefore decided to exempt the referral requirement for 2A, and certain other procedures at the four identified charitable medical college hospitals. The exemption will operate for one year on a pilot basis. Services will be provided at government-notified rates under the AB-Ark scheme, the Health Department officials added.

According to the decision, the measure is expected to improve access to timely healthcare services, reduce the burden on limited government hospital infrastructure, and ensure better utilisation of available capacity in private medical college hospitals. The officials have clarified that there will be no additional financial burden on the State, as the participating colleges will provide treatment at government rates.

# KKRTC conductor suspended for dropping off elderly couple midway

**The Hindu Bureau**
YADGIR

A conductor of the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), who had allegedly made an elderly couple deboard the bus in the middle of their journey near Gundlur village in Wadagera taluk of the district, resulting in widespread backlash after the video clip of the couple struggling to walk in an isolated area went viral, has been suspended.

70-year-old Sangamesh and wife Annapurna, 60, natives of Kalaburgi city, boarded the bus at Yadgir bus stand on February 9 to visit Sangameshwar temple located at Sangam village. However, the conductor allegedly dropped them off at Gundlur, citing that the bus could not go to Sangam only for two passengers.

A passer-by filmed the couple walking while carrying bags.

"Even after repeated requests made by us and the co-passengers, the conductor declined to take us till Sangam village and deboarded us from the bus," Ms. Annapurna told *The Hindu* over the phone. "Having no other option, we walked for two kilometres, and while nearing Sangam, a biker, to whom we explained the situation, took us to the village," she said.

A passer-by filmed the couple walking while carrying bags and circulated it on social media. Following it, the public demanded action against the conductor.

The corporation has now taken up the issue and ordered an inquiry. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Minister for Transport Ramlinga Reddy said that he had instructed the Managing Director of KKRTC at Kalaburagi to suspend the conductor for violating the rules. In a subsequent development, Divisional Controller and Disciplinary Officer Manjunath placed Chandappa, driver-cum-conductor of the Yadgir depot of the KKRTC, under suspension.

# Three killed, six injured in accident

**The Hindu Bureau**
YADGIR

Three pilgrims travelling from Yadgir to Srisailam were killed and six others suffered injuries in a road accident near Jadcherla town in Telangana on Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Ramana Gowda Gogi, Megha, and Mahadevamma.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **M .Savitha Bopaiah** (41) W/o K.K Kuttappa residing in A 1005, Ncc Meadows Phase I, Doddaballapur Main Road, Yelahanka Bangalore 560064. V/A dated 13.2.2026 sworn before notary S.R Ravikumar to get affidavit to change my name from **M. Savitha Bopaiah** to **Kekada Savitha Kuttappa (K. Savitha Kuttappa)** both names belong to the same person that is me.

# Swar Utsav event today

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Mitra Foundation, in collaboration with Sapthak, will present Swar Utsav, a Hindustani classical music concert, on Sunday at the Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The event will start with a santoor recital by Shantanu Gokhale at 5 p.m., followed by a vocal recital by Sanjeev Abhyankar,accompanied by Ajinkya Joshi on the tabla and Vyasmurti Katti on the harmonium.

गृह मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
राष्ट्रीय विधि विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, धारवाड कैम्पस
राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयिक विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय, धारवाड कैम्पस
**National Forensic Sciences University, Dharwad Campus**
(An Institution of National Importance Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACTUAL FACULTY**

**Advt. No.:F173/NFSU/DWD/ADM/REC/CF/2026/1 Date: 12.02.2026**

National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Dharwad Campus shall conduct a **Walk-in Interview** for engagement of Teaching Position on a contractual basis as per the details below on **Monday, 23.02.2026 at 09:00 AM onwards.** The Pre-Registration Form and detailed Advertisement are available at https://www.nfsu.ac.in/career.

| Post | Domain/Field | No. of Post |
|---|---|---|
| Assistant Professor | Computer Science / Cyber Security / Digital Forensics | 01* |

*** Vacancies are tentative and subject to change.**

**-Sd-**
**Campus Director**
**NFSU Dharwad Campus**

**Date: 13/02/2026**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, KARNATAKA**
4th Floor, Telephone House , Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
**DEMAND NOTICE**

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

**RC No. 380/2023 IN OA No. 628/2018**
**UCO Bank V/s Sri SRINIVASA N & ANOTHER**

**In the Matter of : (CH) UCO Bank,** Bannerghatta Road Branch, 55/56/3, Old Gurappanapalya, 8th Main, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 029. **... Certificate Holder**

**Vs**

**(CD 1) Sri Srinivasa N. and another** S/o. Sri Narayanappa, R/at 4372 IA 2nd Floor 6th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560 078, Karnataka
**(CD 2) Smt. Pooja Gopal Bhat,** W/o. Sri Srinivas N , R/at 4372 IA 2nd Floor 6th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560 078, Karnataka
**... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2) in **OA /628/2018** an amount of **Rs.10184685/-** (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Eighty Four Thousands Six Hundred Eighty Five Only) along with pendentellite cost, expenses and future interest @ 9.60 % compound interest Monthly w.e.f. 31.03.2018 till realization and costs or Rs.103000 (Rupees One Lakh Three Thousand Only) has become due against you Jointly and severally. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **10.11.2023.**

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT-2)

**Note:** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, KARNATAKA**
4th Floor, Telephone House , Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
**DEMAND NOTICE**

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

**RC No. 506/2023 IN OA No. 1799/2019**
**UCO Bank V/s Sri RAMESH G AND OTHERS**

**In the Matter of : (CH) UCO Bank,** No. 238//35, 9th Main, III Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011. **... Certificate Holder**

**Vs**

**(CD 1) Sri Ramesh G.,** S/o. Late Giriyappa S. G. R/at No. 63, 6th Cross, SBI Officers Colony, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore - 560 079.
**(CD 2) Mrs. Vasantha,** W/o. Late Giriyappa S. G. R/at No. 63, 6th Cross, SBI Officers Colony, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore - 560 079.
**(CD 3) M/s.Royal Builders and Developers,** (A Partnership Firm) Rep by it Managing Partner, Mr. K. H. Mallikarjun, No. 001, Ground Floor, Royal woods, Gourav Nagar, J. P. Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka.
**... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT-2) in **OA /1799/2019** an amount of **Rs.56,28,455/-** (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousands Four Hundred Fifty Five Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 8.55 % compound interest monthly w.e.f 18.11.2019 till realization in full and costs of Rs.59255(Rupees Fifty nine thousand Two Hundred fifty Five only ) has become due against you Jointly and severally plus penal interest @2% p.a is also applicable/payable. 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **04.09.2024**

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT-2)

**Note:** Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

# Investment fraud topped cybercrime cases in 2025 in Karnataka

While the State reported 346 digital arrests in 2025, it reported a total of 6156 investment fraud cases; a senior official says cyber fraudsters capitalise on the people's lure for easy money

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Victims were lured through social media and instant messaging apps offering part-time jobs, tasks to be done online, and reviews of products for money, according to the data. GETTY IMAGES

Of late, the discourse over cybercrime has been dominated by "digital arrest" cases, from the Prime Minister of the country to the Supreme Court of India, speaking about it. But even in 2025, the largest number of cybercrime cases registered in Karnataka were over "investment frauds".

While the State reported 346 digital arrests in 2025, it reported a total of 6,156 investment frauds. Of them, 3,487 cases were where fraudsters made victims invest in stocks and shares through fake apps, and in 2,669 cases, victims were lured through social media and instant messaging apps offering part-time jobs, tasks to be done online, and reviews of products for money, as data presented by the Home Minister in the recently concluded Karnataka Legislature Session showed. Online money transfers, OTP frauds, and credit card frauds made up a bulk of other cases booked in the State.

**Below the radar**

A senior police official said that as the security establishment and other stakeholders try to educate the public of the ever-changing *modus operandi* deployed by cyber fraudsters, the old ones start going below the radar. That doesn't mean that people have become aware of these *modus operandi* and cases stop.

For instance, harassment by loan apps was once all over. Based on several FIRs registered by the Central Crime Branch, Bengaluru City Police, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) raided multiple firms linked to China running these loan apps based out of Bengaluru and several other metro cities of the country in 2023. After this , several of these loan apps were taken down from app stores as well. However, data shows the state has recorded 210 cases of harassment by loan apps in 2025.

There are thousands of social media posts, personalised messages sent through instant messaging apps offering part-time jobs, giving tasks to be performed online, like liking YouTube and Facebook posts, reviewing products online, for a hefty pay. Once a person is tempted by the money and clicks on the link, trust is built by initially paying out small sums of money for menial tasks. Then the fraudster tries to lure the victim with the promise of more returns if they invest with them. Soon, it is a downward spiral. What starts as a job fraud morphs into an investment fraud. A senior official said, for this reason, it was often tough to categorise cybercrimes as per *modus operandi*.

In another *modus operandi*, victims are lured into groups on instant messaging apps where free stock recommendations are provided. Then they are asked to invest in stocks through their own app. The app continues to show hefty profit, and the problem kicks in when the victim tries to withdraw the money. The app doesn't let you withdraw the money, and fraudsters seek more money as withdrawal fee.

A senior official said that cyber fraudsters capitalise on the people's lure for easy money. "There is no free lunch. There is no way anyone can give higher returns than is regularly possible in the market. That is the first red flag. People should desist from interacting with unknown entities online," he said.

Factsheet

| Modus operandi | No. of cases |
|---|---|
| Investment fraud (share trading) | 3,487 |
| Investment fraud (part-time job, task, review) | 2,669 |
| Online money transfer | 1,562 |
| OTP frauds | 945 |
| Credit card fraud | 780 |
| Job fraud | 642 |
| Social media cases | 565 |
| Digital arrest | 346 |
| Fake customer care | 326 |
| Hacking of accounts and IDs | 228 |
| Loan apps | 210 |

## *Runaway groom*

**No consent:** A male donkey ran off from the marriage hall, where Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj organised a wedding of donkeys to support Valentine's Day in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

# Bank staffer held over theft of pledged gold worth ₹4 crore from lockers

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The accused has been arrested, and about 1.2 kg of gold has been recovered so far. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

The assistant manager of a nationalised bank has been arrested for allegedly stealing nearly 2.7 kg of pledged gold valuables from the bank lockers at the bank's Girinagar branch in Bengaluru and pledging them to use the proceeds for online betting and gambling.

The accused, identified as Kiran Kumar, 34, allegedly misused his access to the locker keys and, during the absence of the branch manager, began siphoning off small quantities of pledged gold over a period of time.

**In 21 packets**

The fraud came to light on January 2 when customers visited the Indian Bank branch to retrieve their pledged gold. During a verification of lockers, discrepancies were noticed in several packets. A detailed inspection revealed that gold ornaments were partially missing in 21 packets and completely missing in three packets.

Preliminary investigation found that 2,783 gm of gold, valued around ₹4 crore, had been stolen.

During internal inquiry, Kiran Kumar allegedly confessed to the crime. The police said he pawned the stolen gold at different shops and used the money for online betting and gambling activities.

**Partially recovered**

Based on a complaint, a case has been registered at the Girinagar Police Station.

The accused has been arrested, and about 1.2 kg of gold has been recovered so far. Efforts are under way to recover the remaining gold valuables as the financiers are not cooperative and the police will approach the court concerned to get necessary directions in this regard, officials said.

Lokesh B. Jagalsar, DCP, South Division, requested bank customers to check their valuables from the lockers and deposits periodically to avoid such frauds.

# Contractors to stage protest on March 5 seeking clearance of pending bills

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka Contractors' Association president R. Manjunath at a press conference in Shivamogga on Saturday. S.K. DINESH

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association has decided to stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on March 5, demanding the release of over ₹37,000 crore in pending bills, said R. Manjunath, president of the association, in Shivamogga on Saturday. Mr. Manjunath, addressing a press conference, stated that the State government had not cleared the bills from 2022-23. The association had appealed to the Chief Minister and several Cabinet Ministers as well as other officers multiple times to resolve the issue. However, the government had neither fulfilled the demand nor convened a meeting with the officers concerned.

The contractors, he said, had borrowed loans from various sources, mortgaging their properties and jewellery to complete the work. However, he alleged that the government had not responded to the contractors' problems.

# Eviction notices served on families at Yadamane in Sagar taluk

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

The Forest Department has issued notices to several families in Yadamane village of Sagar taluk asking them to vacate and hand over the land they have cultivated for decades to the department. This has left the residents worried.

Farmers' organisations and political leaders from the taluk have criticised the State government for issuing notices to the families who moved to their current location after giving up their land for the construction of a dam across Sharavati river.

The Range Forest Officer (RFO) of the Sharavati Wildlife Range served notices on the families, citing the order issued by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) of the Kargal Wildlife Division.

The Forest Department had filed cases against the families who allegedly encroached upon forest areas as early as 1998.

The ACF heard the case, and an eviction order was passed in January 2013.

Now, 13 years later, the RFO has served notices on the families to move out. Over the years, the families had cultivated areca, paddy, and other crops.

After the notices were served, leaders from both the Congress and the BJP visited the families and conveyed their support.

Former Minister Hartal Halappa, at a press conference in Shivamogga on Saturday, stated that the families had moved to Yadamane in the 1960s, as per instructions from the then officers. "They are not encroachers of the forest area. They gave up their land for the construction of the Linganamakki Dam and moved out. Now, they are being forced to move out again. Where will they go, leaving behind the land they have cultivated for decades?" he questioned.

Stating that the affected families were all small and marginal farmers with less than three acres of land, the BJP leader urged the State government to come to their rescue and not disturb them. He maintained that the BJP would stand by the families and fight for their rights.

Farmers' organisations have resolved to protest against the Forest Department's actions. Shivanand Kugve, vice president of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, stated that the notices had left the farmers in shock.

# Sakhi auto service 'by women, for women' launched in city

**Shilpa Elizabeth**
BENGALURU

Launched to make auto rides more comfortable and stress-free for women, the platform takes orders only from women passengers. RAVICHANDRAN N.

Vinutha, a disabled person in her 30s, has been driving an auto for the past two years for a living. A former employee at a garment factory, she chose to drive auto as a profession for the love of driving. But the experience has not always been pleasant.

"There have been times when male passengers misbehaved with me," said Vinutha, who expressed joy at being a part of Sakhi, a newly launched aggregator which offers auto rides by women, for women.

Sakhi launched its service in Bengaluru on Saturday. It has so far onboarded 50 autos, all driven by women drivers.

**Stress-free alternative**

Launched with the aim of making auto rides more comfortable and stress-free for women, the platform takes orders only from women passengers.

"There are many instances where I have come back home late - sometimes while doing my internship, other times after meeting friends. I always take an auto and nothing untoward has happened so far, but there is always stress and a sense of caution at the back of my mind. I always make sure someone from my family or friends tracks my live location in such instances," said Amruta P., a law student from Bengaluru.

She feels platforms like Sakhi could be a stress-free option for women passengers, especially during odd hours.

"Women feel that they have to stay alert whenever they are travelling. I felt it was long overdue that we get rid of that anxiety. That is why I started Sakhi," said Krishnavi Parekh, founder of the start-up.

**Women-only model**

Passengers are charged ₹50 for the first 2 km and ₹20 per km after that. While all the income currently goes to the drivers, the start-up may consider taking a commission in the future, said Ms. Parekh.

While the initiative differentiates itself through the women-only model, concerns prevail about acceptance and uptake, given how most users are accustomed to existing ride-hailing platforms.

"Most of us are used to on-demand ride-hailing and existing services like Namma Yatri, Uber, and Ola. If the number of women drivers on the platform is low, the availability of drivers as and when required could be an issue. If a driver is not immediately available, most people will look for alternative options," said Jaya Rajeev, a resident of Bengaluru.

However, Ms. Parekh pointed out that it is still early days. Confident that the numbers will rise in the coming days, she speaks of an overwhelming response on social media handles and the direct booking number.

"Changing the user behaviour was a challenge that I thought of early on. But we have been receiving a good response so far. People have reached out to us saying they want to book it on a subscription basis for two-three weeks for their commute to and from office," she said.

Drivers said they received close to 20 bookings per week via the platform during the pilot.

Noting that similar initiatives in cities like Gurugram received a good response, Ms. Parekh further added that many women feel a sense of empowerment and sisterhood when they are empowering other women. "The comfort that women have with other women, I think it may be difficult to walk away from that once one experiences it," she said.

The bookings are currently taken through the start-up's website and a direct WhatsApp number 6361933364. The team plans to launch an app in a month.

**Timings**
BENGALURU

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **SUNDAY, FEB. 15** | | |
| RISE | 06:42 | SET 18:25 |
| RISE | 05:01 | SET 16:37 |
| **MONDAY, FEB. 16** | | |
| RISE | 06:42 | SET 18:26 |
| RISE | 05:47 | SET 17:32 |
| **TUESDAY, FEB. 17** | | |
| RISE | 06:41 | SET 18:26 |
| RISE | 06:29 | SET 18:24 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 30 | 20 |
| Mysuru | 32 | 16 |
| Bengaluru | 31 | 16 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**29°C** The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**30°C** Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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# Damage to Bidar's karez water system after unauthorised alteration raises alarm

**Kumar Buradikatti**
KALABURAGI

Fresh concerns have surfaced over alleged damage to the centuries-old Naubad-Aliyabad karez (qanat) water system in Bidar, following unauthorised digging and alteration near its outlet, raising alarm among conservationists and prompting intervention by the district administration.

Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma visited the site after receiving complaints about the damage and directed officials to immediately halt any unauthorised activity, initiate action against those responsible, and ensure that conservation measures are undertaken in consultation with experts familiar with the karez system, sources in the district administration said.

The issue came to the fore after environmental activist and State Board for Wildlife member Vinay Malge submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner, warning that the alterations could threaten both the structural integrity and hydrological functioning of the historic underground water system.

In his letter, Mr. Malge flagged concerns over changes to the outlet channel, stating that such interventions could disrupt groundwater recharge and the long-term sustainability of the karez.

A karez, also known as a qanat, is an ancient underground water-harvesting system in which a gently sloping horizontal tunnel is excavated beneath the earth to tap groundwater from higher elevations and convey it by gravity to the surface. Vertical shafts are constructed at regular intervals for ventilation, maintenance and access. Designed to minimise evaporation and contamination, karez systems are regarded as outstanding examples of traditional hydrological engineering, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.

**During Bahmani period**

The Naubad-Aliyabad karez is believed to have been constructed during the Bahmani Sultanate in the 15th century and is among the earliest known qanat systems in India. Conservationists note that it is particularly rare as it is carved through laterite rock, unlike most karez systems, which are typically built in alluvial or limestone formations.

"The karez in Bidar is not merely a historical water harvesting structure but a living groundwater recharge and storage system of exceptional scientific, ecological and heritage value. Any alteration that reduces groundwater retention time risks permanently damaging the revived karez line," Mr. Malge told *The Hindu*.

He also pointed out that the system holds strong potential for nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage site if conserved scientifically.

"This is one of the earliest adaptations of the Persian-Central Asian qanat technology in the Indian subcontinent, and the only known karez constructed in laterite. Losing it to unscientific interventions would be irreversible," Mr. Malge said.

A view of the Naubad–Aliyabad karez in Bidar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The karez should not be viewed merely as a tourism asset. It must be preserved as a long-term, sustainable solution to Bidar's chronic water scarcity," he added.

**Multi-dept. meeting**

Following the controversy, a high-level meeting was convened by Ms. Sharma on January 23, bringing together officials from the Tourism Department, Department of State Archaeology, Bidar Urban Development Authority (BUDA), Bidar City Corporation, Public Works Department, Nirmiti Kendra, Karanja Project, Panjayat Raj Engineering Department and members of Team YUVAA.

At the meeting, Sriganesh, a landscape architect from Bengaluru-based Ficus Consultants, presented a detailed project report (DPR) that outlined a phased plan for the development and conservation of the Naubad-Aliyabad karez system in five stages.

The DPR recommends strict urbanisation and land-use regulations to ensure the long-term sustainability of the karez. A key proposal involves reclaiming the historic Naubad tank and embankment and clearing encroachments along the three feeder streams that historically channelled water into the tank, which functions as an important groundwater recharge structure.

Ms. Sharma has now directed Bidar City Corporation Commissioner Mukul Jain to examine the issue of encroachments and initiate necessary action.

"The DPR is in its final stage of approval. Once it is approved, we will take conservation works immediately," Ms. Sharma said.

# Minister rank for party workers, legislators to burden State exchequer

The ruling Congress has accorded Cabinet rank to 43 legislators appointed to various boards and corporations; in addition, 53 party workers have been granted Minister of State status

**Nagesh Prabhu**
BENGALURU

The State government's decision to confer Cabinet rank on MLAs and MLCs and grant Minister of State status to party workers appointed as heads of government boards, corporations, and authorities is likely to put additional strain on the exchequer, especially at a time when the State is relying heavily on borrowings to fund capital expenditure.

Apart from the 31 constitutionally-sanctioned Cabinet Ministers at present (two vacant now, out of a total of 33), the ruling Congress has accorded Cabinet rank to 43 legislators appointed to various boards and corporations. In addition, 53 party workers have been granted Minister of State status.

Several MLAs and MLCs have also been assigned advisory and other roles, including Chief Minister's legal, economic, and political advisers; the government's representative in New Delhi; chairperson of the Administrative Reforms Commission; vice-chairperson of the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission; chairperson and four vice-chairpersons of the Guarantee Committee, and the Chief Minister's media adviser. All these positions carry either Cabinet or Minister of State rank.

The total number of individuals enjoying Cabinet or ministerial-level privileges now exceeds the total strength of Congress MLAs in the Assembly. FILE PHOTO

With the latest decision to confer Minister of State status on 53 party workers, the total number of individuals enjoying Cabinet or ministerial-level privileges now exceeds the total strength of Congress MLAs in the Assembly.

Sources said that following several rounds of discussions, the government appointed party workers to boards and corporations to boost cadre morale. Ahead of rural and urban local body elections, a notification was issued granting Minister of State status to 53 party functionaries in an effort to "please all," party sources indicated.

Although these legislators and party workers are not technically part of the Council of Ministers, the status entitles them to perks equivalent to those enjoyed by Ministers. They are provided with offices, staff, personal assistants, security personnel, vehicles, salary, accommodation, telephone facilities, and travel allowances.

**Why parties do it**

The 91st Constitutional Amendment (2003), enacted during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, capped the size of the Council of Ministers at 15% of the total strength of the House. As a result, ruling parties often face pressure to accommodate senior legislators who cannot be inducted into the Cabinet. To manage dissent and placate aspirants, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has granted Cabinet rank to several members. Such appointments are seen as a way to curb internal factionalism and maintain party cohesion, a Congress party functionary said.

The BJP and the JD(S) have accused the government of prioritising political appointments for political survival.

# BJP claims Karnataka has gone '25 years backward'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

As the Congress government completed 1,000 days in office and held a grand celebration in Haveri to mark the occasion, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a sharp attack, alleging that the State had "regressed by 20 to 25 years" in development and that its financial health had worsened.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra claimed that the government had failed to fulfil its promise of filling 2.85 lakh vacant government posts, thereby betraying the youth.

He alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had earlier spent ₹170 crore on a caste census but shelved the report, allegedly at the direction of Rahul Gandhi. "Now ₹450 crore had been spent again on a second caste census. This census also might be dumped," Mr. Vijayendra said.

He said that although ₹1.5 lakh crore had been promised for irrigation projects over five years, there had been no substantial progress. "Assurances to establish tech parks in Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Hubballi to generate over 1 lakh jobs remained unfulfilled. The promise of supplying 10 kg of rice has not been fully implemented, with the State relying on the Centre's 5 kg allocation," he claimed.

# Govt. can give 'water guarantee' if Centre gives permissions: DKS

**The Hindu Bureau**
HUBBALLI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said that if the Union government accords requisite permissions for major irrigation projects of Karnataka – Upper Krishna, Mekedatu , Mahadayi and Yettinahole – the Congress government would be able to provide "water guarantee" as the "seventh guarantee."

Addressing a rally in Haveri to distribute title deeds to beneficiaries, described as the "sixth guarantee", which coincided with the Congress government completing 1,000 days in office, Mr. Shivakumar said that the government had decided to give compensation to the tune of ₹35 lakh to ₹40 lakh to farmers who part with their land for the Upper Krishna Project.

"Owing to effective arguments in the Supreme Court, we have received a favourable order towards the balancing reservoir on Cauvery at Mekedatu. We are readying DPR for the project. On Mahadayi, the Forest Department has not given the necessary permissions," he said. Speaking on the Yettinahold project, he said that if the permission is given within three months, then the State government would be able to complete the work of supplying drinking water to Chickballapur and Kolar.

A host of Ministers including Krishna Byre Gowda, Shivanand Patil, H.K. Patil, Satish Jarkiholi, K.H. Muniyappa, G. Parameshwara took part in the event.

**MADHUSUDAN LAW UNIVERSITY, CUTTACK**
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Letter No: MLU/Estt. /492/2026 Date: 13-02-2026

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**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ**

**(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (Two Tender Document System)**

ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ ಬರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1. ವಾರಾಹಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ವಿತರಣಾ ನಾಲೆ–32ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ
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3. ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.02.2026.
4. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.02.2026
5. ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಂಕ: 02.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
6. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.03.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
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ಸಹಿ/–, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ,
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

# HC permits Mahashivaratri puja on dargah premises in Aland

**The Hindu Bureau**
KALABURAGI

The Kalaburagi Bench of the High Court of Karnataka has permitted members of Hindutva organisations to perform Mahashivaratri rituals at a shivling located on the premises of the Hazrat Ladle Mashak Dargah in Aland town of Kalaburagi district.

Allowing two separate petitions filed by Siddaramaiah Hiremath and Gurushant Tengli, along with others, the court granted permission to 13 of the 14 applicants to conduct rituals and *rudrabhisheka* to the shivling installed atop the samadhi of Sri Raghav Chaitanya. The worship has been permitted between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sunday.

According to the petitioners, the samadhi of Raghav Chaitanya has existed on the dargah premises for nearly 400 years, and a shivling is situated atop it. The issue of performing puja at the site has been contentious over the past four years, with devotees approaching courts annually seeking permission to conduct rituals on Mahashivaratri.

This year too, Mr. Hiremath moved the High Court seeking permission for the observance.

The management committee of the dargah challenged the order before the Supreme Court, seeking a stay on the proposed rituals.

The apex court, however, declined to interfere with the High Court's order.

Earlier, the committee had also filed an appeal before the Kalaburagi Bench against a February 11 order permitting Mr. Hiremath to perform puja. The appeal was dismissed.

With both the High Court and the Supreme Court declining to grant relief to the committee, the Mahashivaratri rituals will be held under police supervision.

**Prohibitory orders**

In view of the sensitive nature of the issue, the district administration has imposed prohibitory orders across Aland town under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The restrictions will remain in effect till Sunday midnight. Public gatherings have been curtailed and additional police personnel deployed.

The district administration has appealed to residents to cooperate in maintaining peace and communal harmony.

**AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**
**INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT**
**OFFICE OF THE TAX RECOVERY OFFICER (CENTRAL), KOCHI**

Public Auction earlier scheduled for 28th January 2026 of Immovable properties (land **16 Cents** & Villa **2973 Sq. Ft**. & Reserve Price **Rs. 2,81,00,000/-**) situated at Vennala in Ernakulam district attached by Income Tax Department will be sold through E-auction on MSTC platform at **11:00 A.M**. on **24th February 2026**. Auction notice, photos of property & terms and conditions can be viewed under Forthcoming auction list on www.mstcindia.co.in. Intending bidders may please register with www.mstcecommerce.com. Scan QR code for direct access to link.

**Contact: -**
**For Registration: 8884600700**
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Finance Department, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

**NOTICE**

**1. Aggregate Amount** : Total Rs.9,000 crore. **1.** Rs.2,000 crore 7-Year 6-Month Tenure. **2.** Rs.2,000 crore 11-Year Tenure. **3.** Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.19% SGS 2032. **4.** Rs.2,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.55% SGS 2035. **5.** Rs.1,000 crore - Re-issue of 7.56% SGS 2036.

**2. Method of Issue** : By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai

**3. Date of auction** : February 17, 2026

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

**Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)**
**Joint Secretary to Government**
**(Budget & Resources), Finance Department**

DIPR/CP/5638/Zen/2025-26

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**
**M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR**

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,2,3/4702/TND/2025-26/4338 Date:12.02.2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

**4702 Major Works :-** Total 5 Works**(2nd Call)**, Amount put to Tender **Rs.253.80 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

**4702 TSP Works :-** Total 1 Work**(2nd Call)**, Amount put to Tender **Rs.16.28 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **13.02.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **23.02.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **21.02.2026.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/702/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

# A.P. govt. allocates ₹32,300 cr. for school education in Budget

**G.V.R. Subba Rao**
VIJAYAWADA

Payyavula Keshav

The Andhra Pradesh government on Saturday unveiled the Budget for 2026-27 with a total outlay of ₹3,32,205 crore, underscoring its focus on inclusive growth, welfare expansion, and long-term asset creation, while maintaining fiscal discipline.

Presenting the Budget in the Legislative Assembly, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav said revenue expenditure was estimated at ₹2,56,142 crore, while capital expenditure stood at ₹48,697 crore, reflecting continued emphasis on infrastructure and productive investments.

Highlighting investment in human capital, he announced that school education received the highest allocation of over ₹32,300 crore.

Backward Classes Welfare was allocated ₹23,650.88 crore, while the Social Welfare and EWS Welfare departments were earmarked ₹11,118.84 crore and ₹10,699.33 crore respectively.

"The choices we make today will define the future we will see tomorrow," Mr. Keshav said, stressing the government's long-term development vision.

In the health sector, ₹2,144 crore was earmarked for Reproductive and Child Health programmes and ₹838 crore under the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

The Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva Trust was allocated ₹4,000 crore to expand health coverage for economically weaker sections.

Sanitation and livelihood initiatives also received focused attention. An allocation of ₹1,037 crore was made for the Swachh Bharat Mission and ₹955 crore for the National Rural Livelihood Mission.

On the welfare front, ₹8,365 crore was earmarked for the VB-G RAM G scheme, while housing programmes in the urban and rural areas would receive ₹5,451 crore.

### Jal Jeevan Mission

To strengthen basic amenities, ₹4,000 crore was allocated for the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure safe drinking water supply across the State.

In a move to mobilise additional resources, Mr. Keshav proposed the creation of an AP Wealth Fund with a seed corpus of ₹100 crore, inviting private equity participation to generate long-term wealth and financial resilience for the State.

# MPs, MLAs to play a key role in Mayor polls in Telangana

Only those lawmakers registered as voters in municipality or municipal corporation limits can be appointed ex-officio members; parties are ramping up efforts to win the support of Independents

**R. Ravikanth Reddy**
HYDERABAD

With 36 municipalities and municipal corporations across Telangana throwing up hung verdicts in the recent civic polls, the spotlight has now shifted to the role of ex-officio members such as Rajya Sabha members, MLCs and MLAs who are set to play a decisive role in the election of Mayors and Municipal Chairpersons.

According to available figures from the hung municipalities and corporations, the Congress has emerged as the single largest party with 244 wards (37.4%), closely followed by the BRS with 238 wards (36.4%), while the BJP secured 95 wards (14.5%). The narrow margins underline the importance of every ex-officio vote in determining control of the urban local bodies.

Against this backdrop, the Telangana State Election Commission (SEC) has issued a circular clarifying the role and eligibility of MPs, MLAs and MLCs in the election of Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Mayors and Deputy Mayors across the State.

The SEC made it clear that only those Rajya Sabha members and MLCs who are registered voters within the municipality or municipal corporation limits would be eligible to be co-opted as ex-officio members. Their eligibility would strictly be determined by their inclusion on the electoral rolls of the respective urban local body, in line with the criteria laid down by the High Court.

The guidelines were issued based on the Telangana Municipalities Act, 2019, and the norms based on a Telangana High Court judgment in 2021. The clarification assumes significance at a time when political parties are locked in intense negotiations to secure control of urban local bodies where no single party has secured a clear majority.

This restriction is expected to pose a major challenge for all political parties, as MPs and MLCs cannot freely opt to vote or participate in municipalities outside their registered electoral jurisdictions. This could significantly limit manoeuvring room in closely contested urban bodies.

Independent councillors and corporators, and representatives of smaller parties are also in high demand now as their support becomes crucial in deciding the Chairpersons and Mayors.

The Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the BJP have intensified efforts to attract Independent candidates, identify eligible ex-officio members and align them with specific municipalities and corporations where the mayoral and chairperson contests are expected to be tight.

Independents are also being offered deputy chairperson or deputy mayor posts to ensure their support on the crucial day of election on February 16.

**Celebrating a win:** Bharat Rashtra Samithi members celebrating at a counting centre in Telangana on Friday. MOHD ARIF

## Collective work resulted in Congress victory: Revanth

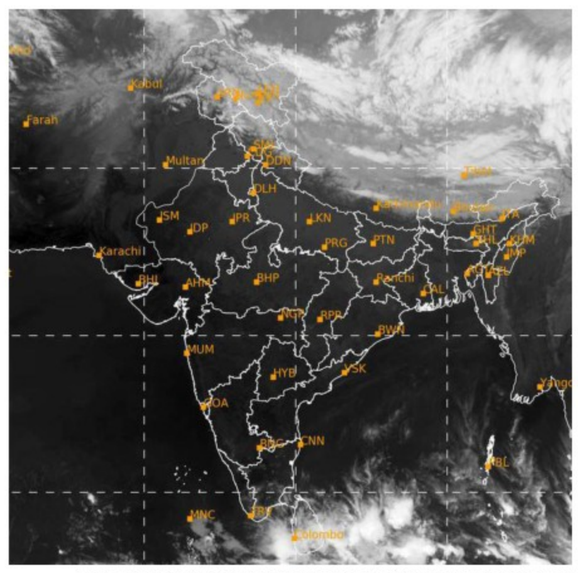
**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy asked his Cabinet colleagues to focus on the 36 municipalities and municipal corporations that returned hung verdicts in the recent civic polls and ensure that the Congress emerges with control in the maximum number of urban local bodies.

Chairing a meeting with Ministers, MLAs and TPCC president Mahesh Goud, the Chief Minister congratulated all Ministers for the Congress's strong performance in the municipal elections, and said the positive results were possible only because everyone worked collectively. He also lauded Congress workers for their efforts and commitment.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

**Forecast for Sunday:** Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka and Konkan & Goa. Squally weather with wind speed 35 to 45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph likely to prevail over some parts of southeast & adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal adjoining to east Equatorial Indian Ocean

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 30.1 | 14.0 | Kozhikode | — | 35.8 | 24.9 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 33.7 | 17.3 | Kurnool | — | 35.1 | 18.9 |
| Aizawl | — | 28.0 | 10.2 | Lucknow | — | 26.5 | 10.2 |
| Allahabad | — | 28.4 | 11.0 | Madurai | — | 35.0 | 23.3 |
| Bengaluru | — | 31.4 | 16.3 | Mangaluru | — | 33.4 | 21.6 |
| Bhopal | — | 30.0 | 14.2 | Mumbai | — | 33.8 | 19.9 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 33.2 | 15.9 | Mysuru | — | 32.2 | 15.6 |
| Chandigarh | — | 25.1 | 9.3 | New Delhi | — | 27.0 | 9.2 |
| Chennai | — | 31.7 | 22.3 | Patna | — | 25.9 | 14.2 |
| Coimbatore | — | 32.5 | 21.1 | Port Blair | — | 31.1 | 23.8 |
| Dehradun | — | 25.8 | 11.6 | Puducherry | — | 30.6 | 21.6 |
| Gangtok | — | 17.2 | 9.3 | Pune | — | 34.1 | 18.6 |
| Goa | — | 34.9 | 19.8 | Raipur | — | 32.9 | 18.8 |
| Guwahati | — | 28.8 | 15.2 | Ranchi | — | 26.9 | 11.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 33.0 | 16.0 | Shillong | — | 19.0 | 8.6 |
| Hyderabad | — | 31.4 | 17.5 | Shimla | — | 19.6 | 8.4 |
| Imphal | — | 27.4 | 7.9 | Srinagar | — | 16.7 | -0.5 |
| Jaipur | — | 29.1 | 14.0 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 34.6 | 23.8 |
| Kochi | — | 32.0 | 25.8 | Tiruchi | — | 32.1 | 22.0 |
| Kohima | — | 19.2 | 8.8 | Vijayawada | — | 32.2 | 18.8 |
| Kolkata | — | 28.8 | 15.0 | Visakhapatnam | — | 30.2 | 20.4 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .37 | ..65 | 24 | ... 164 | ...144 | |
| Bengaluru | ...5 | ..17 | 38 | .... 68 | ...134 | |
| Chennai | ...8 | ..13 | 50 | ..... 88 | ...100 | |
| Delhi | .14 | 110 | 77 | ... 273 | ...302 | |
| Hyderabad | ...4 | ..11 | 44 | ... 121 | ...131 | |
| Kolkata | ...9 | 119 | 40 | ... 225 | ...159 | |
| Lucknow | ...8 | ..44 | 58 | ... 158 | ...174 | |
| Mumbai | ...7 | ..37 | 48 | ... 155 | ...147 | |
| Pune | ..— | ..79 | 44 | ... 240 | ...175 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .18 | ..93 | 19 | ... 182 | ...204 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 284 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## INBRIEF

### Pooram disruption inquiry report sparks political storm

The Crime Branch inquiry into the disruption of the 2024 edition of the Thrissur Pooram in Kerala has sparked a fresh controversy, with the police reportedly being exonerated. The report of the probe, ordered by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was submitted on Friday. Its findings have drawn criticism, amid allegations that the report seeks to absolve the police of wrongdoing while faulting the Devaswom for failing to comply with the decisions taken at review meetings chaired by the District Collector and the City Police Commissioner.

### Infant's organs transplanted in two children in Kerala

Ten-month-old Aalin Sherin Abraham, the youngest organ donor in Kerala, will be buried in Kottayam on Sunday with State honours, as per a directive of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who hailed the supreme sacrifice made by Aalin's parents. The baby had died in an accident. Her liver and kidneys were transported to Thiruvananthapuram on Friday night, and transplanted within hours in two children. The recipients – a six-month-old and a 10-year-old – are stable. Aalin's heart valves and corneas have been stored for transplantation at a later stage.

### Kapila Theertham witnesses crowd influx

Thousands of devotees gathered at Kapila Theertham temple on Saturday to witness the procession of Kapileswara Swamy on the 'Kalpavriksha Vahanam' during the seventh day of the annual Brahmotsavam. Amidst a grand devotional spectale, the idol blessed the devotees, accompanied by dance troupes performing in front of Kalpavriksha Vahanam. Later, 'Snapana Tirumanjanam' was performed to the processional idols. Temple superintendent Chandrasekhar and other staff were present.

## *Thundering hooves*

**Rein in:** A pair of buffaloes runs through a slush field during the Jaya Vijaya Jodukare Kambala (bullock cart race) at Jeppinamogaru in Mangaluru, Karnataka on Saturday. H.S. MANJUNATH

# Kerala govt. writes to Centre on feasibility study for RRTS

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has requested the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to facilitate discussions with the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which implemented the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), for undertaking feasibility studies and developing a comprehensive RRTS framework in Kerala.

### Cabinet nod

Recalling the announcement made by Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar during the Urban Conclave held in Kochi on September 12, 2025, that the Ministry is willing to consider a proposal for an RRTS project in Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the State Cabinet accorded in-principle approval for the high-speed rail transit project on January 28, 2026.

In a letter to Mr. Khattar, Mr. Vijayan said the RRTS would be a project of critical importance to the State's long-term sustainable mobility strategy.

## Left-leaning voters will back UDF: Venugopal

**The Hindu Bureau**
PALAKKAD

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal said here on Saturday that a substantial portion of the United Democratic Front (UDF) votes would be from Left-leaning voters in the upcoming Assembly elections.

He said the people in Kerala feared that yet another victory for the CPI (M) would create a Bengal-like situation in the State. "After witnessing the State government's failures, even its allies are under stress. Many who support Communist ideals may react without fully grasping the situation," he said.

# Naval rehearsals enliven RK Beach in Vizag ahead of major maritime events

**V. Kamalakara Rao**
VISAKHAPATNAM

The iconic RK Beach in the city was transformed into a grand stage on Saturday as the Indian Navy began rehearsals for two of the world's largest maritime events: the International Fleet Review-2026 (IFR) and MILAN-2026.

Crowds gathered along the shore to witness a spectacular preview of what lies ahead.

With the main events scheduled from February 15 to 25, the city is already buzzing with energy and marked by military precision.

The Beach were packed as onlookers gathered to watch the International City Parade rehearsals on Saturday. The air reverberated with the roar of jet engines and the rhythmic cadence of marching.

Public gathers to watch Battle Tanks demonstrate precision refuelling and fleet synchronisation, during rehearsals for IFR and MILAN, at RK Beach in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. V. RAJU

Indian Naval aircraft and helicopters performed breathtaking maneuvers over the Bay of Bengal, practicing for the official display on February 18-19.

The main event, featuring the Presidential Fleet Review, is scheduled for February 18.

On February 19, International City Parade will be held at RK Beach (4 p.m. onwards) featuring naval contingents, air power demonstrations, drone/laser shows, and fireworks.

"This is a historic first for India, as it hosts the IFR, MILAN, and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) all at once," a Naval spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

According to Defence sources, ships from 19 countries–including the USA, Russia, France, and Germany–are arriving. In total, more than 70 countries are sending representatives, with over 60 warships and 50 aircraft expected to participate.

The star of the show, India's indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*, is yet to arrive in the Bay of Bengal, and will be the centrepiece of the Presidential Fleet Review, the Defence sources added.

## SIR hearings phase ends in Kerala; final list on Feb. 21

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The hearings and verification phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll ended in Kerala on Saturday.

The final roll will be published on February 21 as per the schedule published by the Election Commission of India (EC). Till Friday, close to 40,000 people had been eliminated from the roll following hearings. Definitive data on the exclusions are expected to be out in the coming days.

Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar has scheduled a meeting with political parties on Tuesday.

From Page One

## New Urban Challenge Fund eyes infra push

The Central assistance scheme aims to bring to fruition proposals related to 'cities as growth hubs'. AFP

It gives effect to the government's vision, announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26, to implement proposals relating to "cities as growth hubs", "creative redevelopment of cities", and "water and sanitation".

Projects will be selected through a transparent and competitive challenge mode, ensuring support for high-impact and reform-oriented proposals. There will be a strong thrust on reforms across urban governance, market and financial systems, operational efficiency, and urban planning, the statement said.

Private sector participation will be encouraged through structured risk-sharing frameworks and benchmarking of service delivery standards. A dedicated ₹5,000 crore corpus will enhance the creditworthiness of 4,223 cities, including Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, particularly for first-time access to market finance.

Under the Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme, the Centre will provide a guarantee of up to ₹7 crore or 70% of the loan amount (whichever is lower) for first-time loans.

Upon successful repayment of the first loan, a Central guarantee of ₹7 crore or 50% of the loan amount (whichever is lower) will be provided. This will effectively support projects of ₹20 crore for the first time and ₹28 crore for subsequent projects in smaller cities. In principle, all cities will be covered under UCF.

## SC to hear pleas over FIR against Assam CM tomorrow

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear petitions on Monday seeking the registration of an FIR into instances of alleged communal speeches attributed to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and a social media post, since deleted, depicting him discharging a firearm toward an animated image of two Muslim men.

The petitions are listed for hearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The petition filed by the CPI(M) has accused Mr. Sarma of indulging in a "sustained pattern of hate speeches". Another petition was filed by the CPI raising questions in a similar vein about Mr. Sarma's conduct and the now-deleted social media post.

The social media post, circulated in the public domain as a video, on February 7 from the "official handle of the BJP, Assam on X, and thereafter widely disseminated, has been the most blatant and disturbing manifestation of the pattern complained of". The petition added that the video was removed from the public domain following severe backlash.

However, the material continued to be widely circulated and disseminated through multiple other accounts and platforms.

# 'National interest will guide BNP on Ganga Water Treaty'

India must 'make a break from the past', realise Awami League does not exist in Bangladesh any more, says adviser to Bangladesh PM-designate; political mood new since 2024 uprising, he adds

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
DHAKA

Bangladesh will take a decision on the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty based on its "national interest", according to Humaiun Kobir, foreign affairs adviser to Tarique Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Bangladesh's Prime Minister-designate following the BNP's landslide victory in this week's election.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in an exclusive interview, Mr. Kobir urged India to "break from the past", adding that communal incidents in India are a "matter of concern" for Bangladesh.

The Ganga Water Treaty, concluded in 1996, is due for renewal by December this year. Once a BNP government is formed, renewal of the treaty is expected to be one of the first items to be featured in bilateral talks.

In the past, however, Bangladesh has often been told about the interest of the Indian States that are involved in riparian agreements, Mr. Kobir said. Explaining the approach of Mr. Rahman's incoming government, he stressed: "We will move forward in a way so that it meets our national interest."

> The communal violence in India is a concern... the people of Bangladesh feel that India is becoming an intolerant society and a lot of far right individuals are winning in elections through highly communal rhetoric
>
> **HUMAIUN KOBIR**
> Joint Secretary General (International Relations) of BNP

Mr. Kobir added that the BNP leadership has urged the outgoing interim government of Prof. Mohammed Yunus "to leave some advice" regarding some issues, so they will have some idea of the negotiations that may have taken place during its tenure, between August 2024 and February 2026.

**'New kind of politics'**

He explained that the political environment of Bangladesh has changed as a result of the 2024 uprising. As a result, "politics cannot be as usual", he said, noting that all sides of Bangladeshi politics will come together on issues of national interest.

"The biggest achievement of the uprising is that on issues of national interest we can all unite despite our differences," he stressed.

Mr. Kobir raised the issue of communal tensions across the border. "The thing is, communal violence in India is a concern," he said. "People of Bangladesh feel that India is becoming an intolerant society and a lot of far-right individuals are winning in elections through highly communal rhetoric," he said, terming this as "disturbing".

In Bangladesh, he said, the Jamaat could not come to power because it resorted to extremist rhetoric.

"Such rhetoric cannot get you electoral victory in Bangladesh ever but in India people are voting in favour of such rhetoric. India used to be a pluralist country of sorts at one point and the current trends are not good for India. We hope we can overcome these challenges," he said.

He also highlighted the problem of Bangladeshi civilians killed by Indian border security forces. India regards these incidents as law enforcement to deal with Bangladeshi smugglers and criminals who attempt to venture across the border to cause trouble, but Mr. Kobir said that these incidents can also impact public sentiment with regard to bilateral relations.

He appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's congratulatory messages that came soon after the BNP won a two-thirds majority in the February 12 election.

Bangladesh will invite "regional leaders" to participate at the swearing-in ceremony, he said. However, he also urged New Delhi to recognise the existing political reality in Bangladesh, saying, "We hope we can move and make a clean break from the past and India must realise that Sheikh Hasina and Awami League does not exist in Bangladesh today and the resounding victory has shown that."

Mr. Rahman has been working on his international contacts during his years in exile in London, Mr. Kobir said. In his travels to global capitals in Europe, West Asia and the United States, the Prime Minister-designate has forged friendly ties with relevant stakeholders, he added.

## Road accident kills 3 CoBRA personnel in Chhattisgarh

**The Hindu Bureau**
RAIPUR

Three personnel of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) and a civilian driver were killed and a CoBRA jawan was injured in a road accident in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday morning.

The victims were heading to Raipur from Jagdalpur, to travel to their native places on leave, said a senior police officer.

The deceased were identified as Saurabh Tomar, Mukesh Kumar, and Rajkumar God, of the CoBRA, and the driver Heeralal Nagar, Dhamtari Superintendent of Police Suraj Singh Parihar said. The injured commando, Abhiman Rai, has been referred to Raipur for further treatment, he added.

The deceased personnel belonged to the 201st battalion of CoBRA, an elite unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), deployed in the Bastar region for anti-naxal operations.

The police suspect that the driver dozed off and lost control of the vehicle which hit a stationary truck. Mr. Parihar said that the impact of the collision was severe, killing one jawan and the driver on the spot, while two other personnel died on the way to hospital. Video footage that surfaced online showed the parts of the vehicle strewn all over.

## Seven doctors suspended in Rajasthan over health scheme fraud

**The Hindu Bureau**
JAIPUR

Seven doctors posted in Sikar district were suspended and criminal proceedings initiated against a hospital and a diagnostic centre in Rajasthan in a crackdown on fraud in the State government's health scheme. The action followed an audit which detected discrepancies in the scheme's implementation.

Rajasthan's Principal Secretary for Health Gayatri Rathore said here on Saturday that the doctors at Shri Kalyan Government Hospital and the Government Medical College, both in Sikar, and the Community Health Centre at Kheerwa were found involved in irregularities in the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS) for government employees and pensioners.

Ms. Rathore said that first information reports (FIRs) were also being registered against the Bharatpur Nursing Home in Bharatpur and Bothra Diagnostic and Imaging Centre in Bikaner. Instructions for initiating criminal proceedings have been given to the Chief Medical and Health Officers of the two districts.

The probe revealed a collusion between the Bharatpur Nursing Home and Kashish Pharmacy to generate fake claims using the RGHS beneficiary cards.

Patients were treated without the RGHS approval and fraudulent claims were raised through the pharmacy, causing financial loss to the State exchequer. In Bothra Diagnostic Centre, patients were subjected to unnecessary diagnostic tests, while the prescriptions carried forged signatures and seals.

# Govt. weighs law on IPS deputation to CAPFs, files affidavit in top court

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry is considering "statutory intervention" in response to a Supreme Court ruling to "progressively reduce" the deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers up to the rank of Inspector General in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), says an affidavit filed by the Ministry in the Supreme Court.

Statutory intervention pertains to enacting a law on the issue of IPS deputation to CAPFs and granting Organised Group A Services (OGAS) status to CAPF officers.

"In reference to the order dated 28.10.2025, the present affidavit is being filed by the respondents/ contemnors. It is submitted that the Central Government is considering bringing statutory intervention in this regard," the affidavit, accessed by *The Hindu*, said.

At present, 20% of DIG posts and 50% of I-G posts in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers.

The affidavit was filed on February 9 in response to a batch of contempt petitions filed against Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan by retired CAPF officers, following the alleged non-implementation of the Supreme Court's 2025 ruling on reducing IPS deputation in the Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) in CAPFs in the next two years.

On May 23, 2025, the Supreme Court ruled that Group A Executive Cadre officers of CAPFs are Organised Group A Services for all purposes.

Besides directing to progressively reduce the IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the level of I-Gs in the next two years, the court asked for a time-bound review of cadre and service rules in six months.

The Ministry had filed a review petition challenging the judgment, but the court dismissed it making the ruling final.

During the hearing on February 10, after the Additional Solicitor-General informed the court about the statutory intervention, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to the Union Home Secretary and listed the matter for hearing on March 10.

At present, 20% of posts in the rank of Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) and 50% of Inspector-General in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers through an executive order.

The court's ruling is expected to significantly reduce IPS deputation to CAPFs.

## Maharashtra Cong. chief draws flak over remarks comparing Tipu Sultan, Chhatrapati Shivaji

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Courting controversy by comparing Tipu Sultan to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Maharashtra Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal on Saturday said both historic figures should be seen in the same league.

Mr. Sapkal's remarks drew sharp criticism from the BJP. Slamming Mr. Sapkal, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said his remarks were deplorable.

The controversy erupted over an image of Tipu Sultan in the chamber of the deputy mayor of Malegaon, Shan-e-Hind Nihal Ahmed. It had been gifted to her by the corporators, Ms. Ahmed said. The Shiv Sena protested against the presence of the portrait in the deputy mayor's chamber.

"We condemn this statement... He [Mr. Sapkal] should apologise.. Congress should take cognisance of it, if it has even an ounce of morality left in it..," Mr. Fadnavis said on Saturday, terming the remarks "appeasement of the worst kind".

In response, Mr. Sapkal posted on X, "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's valour is unparalleled. Shivray is our pride, and Tipu Sultan was valiant and a lover of self-rule. It was by taking Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj as his ideal that he fought against the British. At the time when Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Tipu Sultan were fighting against foreigners, the people who come from the ideology of the Sangh, BJP, like Devendra Fadnavis, were engaging in servitude and espionage for the British. Therefore, Devendra Fadnavis should not get involved in the pretence of teaching us history. Maharashtra has not forgotten what all [former Governor of Maharashtra] Bhagat Singh Koshyari along with the BJP and RSS have spewed in their loose talk and the insults they have hurled regarding Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj."

# SC to hear plea accusing new data protection law of 'weaponising' right to privacy and 'disarming' RTI

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a petition which accuses India's new digital personal data protection law of weaponising the right to privacy to disarm the citizens' right to seek information from the state under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant would hear a petition filed by human rights and transparency activist Venkatesh Nayak, represented by advocate Vrinda Grover, who has challenged Section 44 (3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act of 2023.

The petition submitted that Section 44(3) has amended Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act to facilitate public authorities to blankly refuse information on the ground that the details sought are of a "personal" nature.

It said that the provision has turned the fundamental right to privacy on its head. The right, meant to protect ordinary citizens against state incursion, has been extended to protect the state and public functionaries from RTI disclosures.

Originally, the RTI provision had exempted authorities from disclosing personal information to an applicant if the details sought had no relationship to any public activity or if disclosure would amount to unwarranted invasion of privacy. Even then, the government had to disclose if public interest outweighed privacy. The decision whether or not to reveal 'personal information' was taken by a Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority under the RTI Act after thoroughly weighing privacy and transparency concerns.

**'Structural alteration'**

"The Constitutional consequence is immediate and serious. Every RTI application involving identifiable public officials, procurement records, audit reports, appointment files, utilisation of public funds, or exercise of statutory discretion can now be denied automatically on the ground that it 'relates to personal information'. The balancing mechanism that ensured proportionality has been dismantled," the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI), represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, argued in a separate petition filed in the apex court.

"The exemption operates as an irrebuttable bar at the first gate. This is not a minor statutory adjustment; it is a structural alteration of the decision-making architecture of the RTI Act," the NCPRI added.

The petition represented by Ms. Grover said that the amendment introduced by the DPDP Act accorded "unguided discretion to the Executive to deny personal information, which is unconstitutional".

"It is an unreasonable restriction on the right under Article 19 (right to free speech). Privacy is not a fundamental right available to the state. It violates Article 14 (right to equal treatment) by equating the privacy of public functionaries to that of ordinary citizens. It inverts the jurisprudence of privacy vis-à-vis the right to information and prioritises privacy over the larger public interest of transparency and open governance," Mr. Nayak's petition argued.

## Adityanath directs strict action against filing of 'false reports'

**Mayank Kumar**
LUCKNOW

Yogi Adityanath

If a false report is filed by the authorities, including the police, during investigation into any case, a First Information Report (FIR) must be registered against the person responsible, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told officials on Saturday, while hearing people's grievances at a 'Janata Darshan' event at the Gorakhnath temple complex.

Several complaints at the interaction pertained to the alleged filing of false reports by investigating authorities, which Mr. Adityanath took serious note of. If any case was kept pending deliberately at any level, strict action must follow, he said. He also instructed officials to take legally stringent steps in cases involving encroachment of land.

He met about 150 persons at the event and directed administrative and police officials to ensure time-bound, impartial, and qualitative redressal of public grievances. "There is no need to worry. Effective solutions will be ensured for every issue," Mr. Adityanath said.

# Polluters must pay to fight climate change, stresses Finance Minister

In a panel discussion on climate security at the Munich Security Conference, Nirmala Sitharaman calls for differentiated responsibility among countries in the mission to protect the planet; she also calls for strong technological cooperation

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, speaking at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday, called for differentiated responsibility among countries towards mitigating climate change, based on the 'polluter pays' principle. She also urged countries to share their technologies, on a commercial basis, to fight climate change.

The Union Minister has on multiple occasions, including around the World Bank - International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings in Washington DC, called for technology cooperation. She has also said that advanced economies that have been historic polluters must contribute more towards funding for climate action.

"It cannot be that countries which have less contributed to emissions, are made to pay equally," she said calling for differentiated treatment of responsibilities to fight climate change.

"Polluter pays," she added, during a panel titled, 'Degrees of Instability: Climate Security in a Warming World'.

Nirmala Sitharaman being welcomed on her arrival at the Munich International Airport on Saturday. ANI

While focusing on longer-term climate action, the government also had to focus on a more immediate response to to how climate change is affecting communities, according to Ms. Sitharaman. She called for emphasis not just on emissions control but also on resilience and adaptation.

**The Minister placed emphasis not just on emissions control but also on resilience and adaptation**

"Otherwise, you're going to sacrifice a lot of human beings, livestock in our eagerness, which is a justified eagerness, to save the climate for the Earth," she said.

The Minister said that countries should also be able to work with each other, as she called for the sharing of technologies on a commercial basis.

Saying India had increased the percentage of GDP spent on climate action over the last six years, Ms. Sitharaman argued that the country was not waiting for funds and technology to come from elsewhere.

"But they should come," she said, adding that funding was going to be even more challenging for African countries.

**Fund allocation**

Ms. Sitharaman said the allocations towards environmental programs in the Union Budget did not tell the entire story of how much would be spent on projects during the year. She was responding to a question on the Union Budget's reduction in funds allocated to the control of pollution compared to last year and the increase in funding for the 'Green India' mission. While funding for the mission increased from ₹95.7 crore in 2025-26 to ₹212.5 crore for 2026-27, the allocation for the control of pollution for 2026-27 is around ₹1,091 crore, down from a revised estimate of ₹1,300 crore for 2025-26.

She described funding as a "dynamic process" with supplementary need-based grants potentially being given during the course of the year.

International cooperation on climate change has been shaken since the return of U.S. President Donald Trump to the White House in January 2025, with the administration reversing U.S. policies on green transition, including pulling America out of the Paris Agreement on climate, again.

One of the panelists, Sheldon Whitehouse, a U.S. Senator and the highest ranking Democrat on the Senate environment committee, criticised the Trump administration.

"What this administration is saying about climate change can literally only be put in the category of corruption," Mr. Whitehouse said. He apologised for U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's 'climate cult' remark made earlier on Saturday in Munich saying the remark would not age well. "The fossil fuel industry has built the largest apparatus of fraudulent misinformation and dark money political corruption in the history of the species," Mr. Whitehouse said.

# India has not lost 'strategic autonomy' after U.S. deal, says Jaishankar in Munich

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar interacts with Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi at the Munich Security Conference. PTI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday denied that India's strategic autonomy had been impacted because of claims that it was reducing the amount of Russian oil in its energy import mix due to the recent trade agreement with the United States.

"We are very much wedded to strategic autonomy," said Mr. Jaishankar at an event on India and Germany navigating global uncertainty with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul at the Munich Security Conference.

He was responding to a question from the moderator, *Financial Times* Editor Roula Khalaf, on whether the recently announced trade framework with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump had impacted India's autonomy, forcing it to reduce purchases of Russian oil, which had skyrocketed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Mr. Jaishankar insisted that the government could continue to exert strategic autonomy as it wished.

"We do and we've always done," he said, adding that the notion cut across the political spectrum in India.

The Narendra Modi-led government has come under fire, including from Opposition parties, for acquiescing to Mr. Trump's demands that New Delhi stop purchasing Russian oil.

Mr. Trump had insisted earlier in February that India had agreed to stop buying oil from Russia as part of a larger trade agreement, and this had meant he would cut tariffs on Indian exports to the U.S. (including eliminating a 25% 'penalty' for trading with Moscow).

Mr. Jaishankar suggested that oil companies in India, Europe and other places looked at market factors to determine what is in their best interest.

"So I would say..., we have a position on that. I don't want to rehash the polemics of that," he said, presumably referring to differences between India and the European Union on India's relationship with Russia.

"I think that phase has passed today when, you know, coming to Munich, very honestly, I'm kind of coming here in the afterglow of an India EU FTA and a very successful visit of [German ] Chancellor [Friedrich] Merz [to India]," the Minister said.

India could still make decisions independently and they could sometimes be in disagreement with the views of others, he said.

**New ground for Canada**

On the speech of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at Davos in January, where Mr. Carney called for like-minded middle powers to come together to counter 'Great Power', Mr. Jaishankar suggested that was "new ground" for Canada because it is a treaty ally. India was in any case working in many groups with different countries, he said, citing the Quad and BRICS groupings as examples.

An " agenda-based coming together of countries on a regular basis" was "very much the hallmark of Indian diplomacy" for about two decades, Mr. Jaishankar added.

On the India - Europe - Middle East Corridor (IMEC), Mr. Jaishankar said the project was progressing but not at the pace that was initially expected due to the conflict in West Asia.

Responding to a question on how India sees IMEC contributing to Palestinian interests and regional stability, Mr Jaishankar said that the purpose of the project was to address connectivity and not the issue of Palestine, although India had a "longstanding" position on the latter.

"I do think each of those issues [i.e., connectivity and Palestine] is important, but I would not take one as the solution for the other," he said.

On the Quad, Mr. Jaishankar said, the summit, which was meant to be held in 2025 in India was "not cancelled", because it had not been specifically scheduled.

"The fact that the Quad did not take place at the summit level itself, I wouldn't over read it. So do stay tuned," he said.

There had been speculation that a declining level of interest in the Quad from the current Trump administration, diplomatic difficulties between India and the U.S. centred around the 50% U.S. tariff on India, and their inability to close a trade deal had resulted in the Quad Summit not taking place.

Mr. Jaishankar pointed to the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's first [foreign-level] engagement after being appointed was with his Quad counterparts and that there was a second meeting in July 2025. "I want to assure you that the other parts of the Quad, various mechanisms, all of those are going on," he added.

# Congress neglected Northeast India, put country at risk, says PM Modi

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of neglecting the strategically sensitive northeastern region and always endangering the country's security.

Addressing BJP workers in Guwahati, he said fear and insecurity marked the reigns of the Congress in Assam. "The Congress never prioritised the country's security and always put the nation at risk. The purchase of weapons for the armed forces during the Congress rule was marked by corruption of thousands of crores," the Prime Minister said.

Among the slew of projects the Prime Minister inaugurated during his day-long visit was the ₹3,030-crore Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu spanning the Brahmaputra. The six-lane extra-dosed prestressed concrete bridge is expected to cut the travel time between Guwahati and north Guwahati across the river to seven minutes.

The bridge incorporates base-isolation technology using friction pendulum bearings, officials said. The technology minimises potential damage in a highly seismic zone. "High-performance stay cables have been used to ensure durability and long-term structural performance," a spokesperson said.

**Vital link:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the six-lane bridge Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu across the Brahmaputra river in Assam on Saturday. PTI

"The country is today strengthening its armed forces. Bharat is building excellent highways, tunnels, high bridges, and modern airfields along its borders," he said.

The Prime Minister said the world saw India's military might when it executed Operation Sindoor. "But the Congress endears people who pursue the agenda of disintegrating the country and chant slogans to sever the Northeast from the country," he said.

"Today, the Congress has become MMC – Maoist Muslim League Congress – and is in the process of partitioning the country [again]," Mr, Modi said, accusing the party of indulging in polarisation.

**Illegal migration**

He advised the people to be wary of the Congress, which was "more dangerous out of power than when it was in power", and accused it of protecting infiltrators. "The BJP is committed to ending illegal immigration. So, the next five years are very important for our party," he said.

Mr. Modi also said the Budget allocation for Assam post-2014 increased five-fold from ₹10,000 crore provided during the Congress rule. "In the past 11 years, the Centre provided Assam ₹5.5 lakh crore for development projects, and this has helped increase employment opportunities," he said.

# 'Time, cost of domestic remittances must reduce'

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has called for a reduction in the time and cost of domestic remittances. In a post on X, he said India's foreign remittances get more policy attention, and this must change due to the volume and socio-economic profile of domestic remittances. Domestic remittances help northern and eastern States.

# Indo-U.S. deal will destroy India's textile industry: Rahul

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Highlighting the possible impact of the India-U.S. trade deal on the textile sector, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the agreement would either "destroy" the industry, which provides employment to about five crore families, or severely harm the cotton farmers.

In a video posted on X, Mr. Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, referred to his speech in Parliament, in which he alleged Bangladesh had been given a "free pass" by the U.S.

Rahul Gandhi

"What do you expect our textile industry to do? Their competitor is Bangladesh. If Bangladesh imports U.S. cotton, they have 0% duty. Our textile industry is finished," Mr. Gandhi said.

Referring to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's statement that India could also get 0% duty on U.S. cotton, Mr. Gandhi said, "The truth is that our cotton goes to Bangladesh and our cotton runs the textile mills of India".

Mr. Gandhi claimed that Bangladesh had already decided not to buy Indian cotton in favour of U.S. cotton.

He accused the government of cheating Indian cotton farmers and textile exporters.

रेल विकास निगम लिमिटेड
Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

RVNL/CPM/MAS/CMRL/UG/GEOI-2/2025-26 DT: 27/01/2026

**GLOBAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Corrigendum to the earlier notification dated 03.02.2026 for extension of the submission date.**

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), A Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways, invites EOI through online from potential buyers / contractors for purchase of Trench Cutter Machines (Bauer BC-35) available @ Chennai.

Further details are available on **https://rvnl.ewizard.in**

**Last date for submission of application Date: 19.02.2026 (Online Mode only) 15.00 hrs.**

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.**

**Bid Identification No. Civil/EST - 35/2025-26**
**TCN No. 3107, dt. 03.02.2026.**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

1. **Name of the Work:** Construction of Block level Stadium, Ghatagaon Block under Keonjhar District with O&M for 05 years
2. **Value of the Work (Approx. Excluding O&M):** Rs. 15.83 Crore
3. **Period of completion:** 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding:**
   - **I.** Start Date: 18:00 Hours of dt.17.02.2026.
   - **II.** End date: 15:00 Hours of dt.06.03.2026.
   - **III.** Opening date: 16.00 Hours of dt.06.03.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

**Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar**

**4001/17/2526** **OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0002**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**
UPPER PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, VELLORE - 632 006.
Form of Contract: Lump sum - Item Rate Contract / Two Cover System
e- Tender Short Term Tender Notice No.08 / UPBC / Vellore / F-Tender / 2025-2026 / Dated: 13.02.2026.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore – 632 006 from the eligible registered contractors having required experience for the following work as per tender document.

| Sl. No | Name of Work | Approximate Value put to Tender (including GST @ 18%) Rs.in Lakhs | Period Of Completion (including Monsoon Period) | Tender submission through online closing date and time (as per Server System Clock) | Date and time of Tender opening (as per Server Clock) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Formation of a Small Dam across the Koilmalayar river near Melarasampattu Village in Anicut Taluk of Vellore District. | 12020.00 | 36 Months | 23.02.2026 at 12:00 Hrs | 23.02.2026 at 13:00 Hrs |
| 2. | Design, Fabrication, Transport, Supply Erection, Testing and Commissioning of radial gate shutters 4 Nos. including hoisting arrangements for controlled Spillway and River Sluice shutter 1No. along with emergency gate in New Construction of Small Dam across the Koilmalayar river near Melarasampattu Village in Anicut Taluk of Vellore District. | 1245.00 | 30 Months | 23.02.2026 at 12:00 Hrs | 23.02.2026 at 13:30 Hrs |

The tender documents will be available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** to enable the tenderers to view and download of the e-tender document through online at free of cost and submission of tenders shall be done only through online.
**Note :** (i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction (or) modification uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender. (ii) The Tender Authority doesn't take any responsibility for the delay / non submission of tender/non-reconciliation of online payment caused due to non-availability of internet connection, network traffic/holidays or any other reasons. (iii) Tender may be cancelled at any stage by competent authority. (iv) Cost of EMD will be paid through online mode only and EMD cost as prescribed in the tender document.

DIPR/ 1096 /TENDER/2026
**Superintending Engineer, WRD., Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore-6**

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ଘୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବାପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୭୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR**
**(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)**
**(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No.:- 0680-2404287)**

E-Mail / E-despatch

**NOTICE**
**FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e"-Procurement**
**Bid identification No. Online Tender/60-2025-26/PMGSY/BPR**

**The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage** rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana **(Balance Work)** in the districts of **Kandhamal for 01 (One)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs 6.46 Cr (Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways.** The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. ***20.02.2026***

**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.** The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Phulbani** ***on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand,*** failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

**Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 06.03.2026 upto 5.30 P.M**

***For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to*** **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.**

**Sd/- K.Ch.Khatua, Chief Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur**

**25001/115/2526** **OIPR-25001/25071/1/25-26/0021**

## INBRIEF

### One dead, three injured as Mumbai metro slab collapses

One person was killed and three were injured on Saturday after a slab at an under-construction metro site collapsed in Mumbai's Mulund area. The deceased was identified as Ramdhan Yadav. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Area constituted an inquiry committee to probe the accident and imposed a fine of ₹5 crore on the contractor and ₹1 crore on general consultants. Calling the accident "unfortunate", Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that action will be taken against those responsible. He also declared *ex-gratia* payment of ₹5 lakh for the family of the deceased.

### Arundhati Roy withdraws from Berlin Film Festival

Award-winning writer Arundhati Roy said on Friday she was withdrawing from the Berlin Film Festival over jury president Wim Wenders' comments that he wanted to "stay out of politics" after being asked about Gaza. Ms. Roy said in a statement sent to *AFP* that she was "shocked and disgusted" by Mr. Wenders' response to a question on Gaza at a press conference on Thursday. "With deep regret, I must say that I will not be attending the Berlinale," she said. Ms. Roy had been announced as a festival guest to present a restored version of the 1989 film *In Which Annie Gives It Those Ones*. She wrote the screenplay and acted in the film. AFP

### Hoax bomb threat stalls Shillong-bound aircraft

A Shillong-bound aircraft was stranded at Kolkata airport for around four hours on Saturday following a bomb threat, an official statement said. The IndiGo flight 6E 7304 was moved to the isolation bay after the discovery of a handwritten note claiming that a bomb had been placed on the plane, it said. The threat, however, later turned out to be a hoax, and the flight left for its destination at 1.33 p.m. An Airports Authority of India (AAI) spokesperson said the note was discovered in the lavatory by one of the crew members. Upon completion of all safety checks by security authorities, the aircraft was declared safe for operations, spokesperson added. PTI

### Two Bengal academics win A.K. Ramanujan Prize

Two academics from West Bengal have won the coveted A.K. Ramanujan Prize for translating into English the works of Dalit poet Kalyani Thakur Charal, titled *I Belong to Nowhere*, becoming the first Bengalis to win the honour. The poems were translated from Bengali over a period of two years by Sipra Mukherjee, Professor of English at the West Bengal State University, and Mrinmoy Pramanick, Professor of Comparative Literature at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. The book is an anthology of Ms. Charal's poems, curated from five of her collections published between the 1990s and the 2020s.

## SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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## CRPF vows to end terrorism on Pulwama anniversary

**The Hindu Bureau**
SRINAGAR

Top officials of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Saturday visited Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama to mark the six years since the suicide attack that killed 40 jawans and triggered a major skirmish between India and Pakistan. The CRPF pledged to continue its outreach to the families of the victims and eradicate terrorism from the country. "On this day in 2019, we lost 40 of our brave soldiers. It is a deeply emotional moment for the CRPF and the entire nation. The CRPF is committed to eradicating all forms of terrorism across the country," said Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director-General of CRPF. "We will always stand with them and their dependents. Wherever anyone needs anything, we will always try to fulfil it" he added.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also paid tributes to the victims and commended their 'selfless service to the motherland'.

# Centre expects 15 outcomes from AI Summit, says official

Delegates from more than 100 countries are expected; the event aims to become a platform not merely for discussion but also for tangible outcomes and deliverables, says senior Ministry official

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

The government is aiming for "at least 15" outcomes from the AI Impact Summit to be hosted in the national capital next week, a senior official in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has said.

The summit, expected to be one of the largest global gatherings on artificial intelligence, will see participation from more than 100 countries.

Heads of state or government of Brazil, France, Spain, Greece, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Switzerland, and Slovakia are among those expected.

"When we started planning the summit, we got a clear direction from our honourable Prime Minister that this should not be only a 'talking shop' wherein experts come and give *gyan* [deliver lectures] on all the subjects and nothing happens," Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary at MeitY, said in a video released by the Ministry this week. "It was very clear that we have to come to tangible deliverables and outcomes," Mr. Singh said.

"The final deliverables will be announced at the summit, but there will be at least 15 concrete ones," Mr. Singh said.

One confirmed outcome is India's entry into the US-led Pax Silica initiative, an alliance of like-minded countries aimed at building a resilient electronics supply chain.

It remains unclear whether the outcomes will lead to the formation of a multilateral body to deal with AI governance and ethics.

MeitY secretary S. Krishnan, in an interview with *The Hindu*, said, "Whether there will be another international body like the International Solar Alliance, I don't really know. We may not do it as a regular body."

That would be in line with India's other multistakeholder approaches on AI so far. India's AI Safety Institute—a concept that many countries are adopting, by either creating new institutes or designating existing research bodies as AISIs—was launched as a virtual body of researchers from different Indian Institutes of Technology and other universities.

The Centre has made arrangements to accommodate over 1.5 lakh visitors at Bharat Mandapam, for the AI Summit happening from February 16 to 20. Officials indicated that attendance could match or even exceed the turnout recorded during the G20 Summit 2023 event.

They said summit passes had been oversubscribed, and large crowds are expected. Traffic restrictions have been announced in areas around Bharat Mandapam.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during a press conference in New Delhi on Friday on the India AI Impact Summit 2026. ANI

## Lawyers can appear on video during AI Summit: SC

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has permitted lawyers to appear through video conferencing before it during the AI Impact Summit, which is scheduled to be held at nearby Bharat Mandapam, if they face difficulty in appearing in person due to anticipated traffic congestion.

Taking note of a request made by the Supreme Court Bar Association, the Supreme Court issued a circular in this regard.

**'Link will be shared'**

"To facilitate appearance through video conferencing, relevant video conferencing link shall be shared with the Advocates-on-Record," the circular said.

The top court clarified that appearance through video conferencing shall be optional and all the Benches shall function in hybrid mode during the summit. More than 10,000 police personnel will be deployed in the capital during the summit.

# Assam's tea gardens make room for bamboo to fuel bioethanol plant

**Rahul Karmakar**
NUMALIGARH (GOLAGHAT)

The world's tallest grass may help some of Assam's 803 major tea estates and 1.22 lakh registered small tea growers overcome a tough phase.

In August 2022, the government tweaked the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holding Act of 1956 to allow tea gardens to use up to 5% of their land for non-tea purposes. A few tea gardens within a 300-km radius of the world's first commercial-scale 2G bioethanol plant using bamboo as feedstock, are using the permitted portion of their area for bamboo cultivation.

This ₹4,930-crore plant spread across 43 acres at Numaligarh, about 260 km east of Guwahati, has been established by Assam Bio Ethanol Private Limited (ABEPL), a joint venture of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), which is a Navaratna public sector undertaking, with the Finland-based Chempolis Oy and Fortum.

ABEPL experts said ethanol production is costlier in a 2G or second-generation plant than a first-generation plant, but ensures food security, is more sustainable, and leaves a lower carbon footprint. While 1G ethanol is produced from food crops using simple fermentation, 2G ethanol is derived from non-food farm waste or residue.

"We pursued the bioethanol project after research in Finland showed that freshly harvested bamboo, chipped to a specific size, can be a sustainable substitute for food crops. And we are located at the centre of a region that is the largest producer of several bamboo species," an NRL spokesperson said.

The ABEPL streamlined the bamboo supply chain much before Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the bioethanol plant to the nation in September 2025.

"We need five lakh metric tonnes of green bamboo to produce 49,000 metric tonnes of ethanol annually, apart from furfural, acetic acid, liquid $CO_2$, and bio-coal for our 25MW captive power plant," a specialist said.

The ABEPL has registered some 4,200 of a targeted 30,000 bamboo farmers across 26 districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. They are, however, not enough to meet the plant's annual intake.

This is where the tea gardens, especially those with land to spare for non-tea activities such as tourism and horticulture, have come in.

"Some tea gardens have started planting bamboo. Our members are also thinking of doing it," Bidyananda Barkakoty, the adviser of the North Eastern Tea Association, told *The Hindu*.

Some planters believe fuelling the bioethanol plant could help the industry get over a near-slump due to multiple factors, including climate change impacting production, ageing tea bushes, high production costs, poor infrastructure, and labour shortage.

**Long-term plan**

The ABEPL has put in place a structured tie-up model, ensuring sustainable bamboo supply and transparent sourcing. The model requires farmers to offload their product at a decentralised chipping unit within 30-40 km of their farms. The chipped bamboo is then transported to the plant for instant payment to everyone down the line.

A major part of the plan is the long-term goal of distributing 60 lakh saplings free of cost to the farmers.

The chipping unit of the bamboo-based bioethanol 2G plant at Numaligarh in eastern Assam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# 4.98 lakh voters did not show up for SIR hearings: Bengal CEO

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOLKATA

Manoj Kumar Agarwal

Despite repeated summons issued to voters, 4.98 lakh electors have not showed up for the special intensive revision (SIR) hearings in the State, West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer, Manoj Kumar Agarwal, said on Saturday. Additionally, 1.63 lakh voters have been flagged as "ineligible" due to errors.

This comes on the day that the SIR hearings were formally completed in the State after a seven-day extension given by the Election Commission (EC).

"For the people whose names are in the draft roll but their names did not feature in the final roll, they will all get an order. Then, they will have a chance to make an appeal to the District Election Officer, and then to the CEO. They can always get their names back [on the rolls] if they were removed due to errors," Mr. Agarwal said. He added that all SIR hearings have been officially completed in West Bengal within the extended deadline. Mr. Agarwal added that this is not the end of inclusions and deletions from the voter list as voters can still apply for fresh inclusions through Form 6 during other upcoming elections. However, all the 4.98 lakh no-shows at hearings and 1.63 lakh ineligible voters could be removed from the 2026 final voter list of West Bengal.

**'A clean voter list'**

Calling upon the Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, Mr. Agarwal said: "It is now all on them to do their jobs without fear or favour so we can get a clean voter list in West Bengal, which does not remove any valid voter but also does not add any fake or illegal voter."

# Indus basin water flows rose while Ganga declined: study

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

The Indian subcontinent's two great northern river systems – the Indus and the Ganga – are moving in opposite hydrological directions, with important implications for water security across South Asia, according to a study published in the peer-reviewed *Earth's Future*, a publication of the American Geophysical Union.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar analysed changes in stream flow – or how the quantity of water in rivers, lakes, and groundwater varied – between 1980 and 2021 using a high-resolution, physics-based hydrological model that links rainfall, groundwater, river flow, and irrigation pumping. Their findings show that while overall flows in the Indus basin have increased modestly, the Ganga basin has experienced a sharp and sustained decline.

According to the study, annual streamflow in the Indus basin rose by about 8% over the past four decades. In contrast, the Ganga basin saw a 17% reduction in flow over the same period.

**Stark differences**

In the Indus system, rising precipitation – particularly linked to western disturbances and variable monsoon contributions – appears to be the main driver of increased river flow. The study finds that the strongest increases are seen in the main Indus river and its western tributaries, the Jhelum and the Chenab. However, the increase is not uniform: two eastern tributaries, the Ravi and Sutlej, have experienced significant declines despite the basin-wide upward trend.

In the Ganga basin, the picture is starkly different. Rainfall has declined by roughly 10%, while temperatures and atmospheric water demand have increased. But the dominant factor behind falling river flows, the researchers concluded, is intensive groundwater pumping for irrigation.

The research findings intersect with the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which allocates the eastern rivers – Ravi, Beas and Sutlej – to India, and the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab – primarily to Pakistan.

Vimal Mishra, an IIT-G professor and one of the co-authors of the study, told *The Hindu* that these trends showed that climate change and human use of water "necessitated" a relook at water-sharing arrangements under the IWT. "Agriculture in Pakistan is largely dependent on water from the main stem of the Indus and the increased precipitation means that it is not as affected as in eastern Punjab in India where groundwater is declining," he told *The Hindu*.

Groundwater normally feeds rivers gradually through underground discharge, especially during dry months. The study estimates that in parts of the Ganga Basin, groundwater contributes 50% to 70% of annual river flow. When farmers pump heavily – particularly during weak monsoon years – less groundwater reaches rivers.

In some stretches of the Yamuna and upper Ganga, the natural direction of flow between aquifers and rivers has even reversed, with rivers losing water to depleted groundwater systems. The authors estimate that 60% to 80% of the stream flow decline in major Ganga sub-basins can be traced to groundwater extraction, including pumping triggered by rainfall deficits during drought years.

### Turbulent systems

Annual streamflow in the Indus basin rose by 8%, while the Ganga basin saw a 17% flow reduction between 1980 and 2021

- Rising precipitation led to increased flow in the Indus basin even as two eastern tributaries marked significant declines
- Around 60% to 80% of the streamflow decline in major Ganga sub-basins traced to groundwater extraction
- Natural direction of flow between aquifers and rivers reversed on some stretches of the Ganga basin, with rivers losing water to depleted groundwater systems

**Poor flow:** The study warns that without coordinated groundwater regulation and climate-aware management, drying of the Ganga basin is likely to intensify. PTI

## INBRIEF

### Nvidia CEO won't attend India AI summit, company says

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang will not be travelling to India next week for the India AI Impact Summit, which global technology industry and political leaders are likely to attend, the company said. Mr. Huang was expected to be one of the biggest attractions at the summit to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on Thursday. The company's media agency in India, MSL, said in an email that Mr. Huang would not be travelling due to "unforseen circumstances". REUTERS

### SPIC posts consolidated Q3 net PAT at ₹54.07 crore

Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC) Ltd. reported Q3 consolidated net profit after tax of ₹54.07 crore, the company said on Saturday. The city-based agri-nutrient and fertiliser company had earned a net profit of ₹38.50 crore during the corresponding quarter of the last financial year. Net profit after tax for the nine month period ending December 31, 2025, surged to ₹182.01 crore, from ₹136.22 crore in the year earlier period, the firm said. PTI

### Natco gets CDSCO nod for Semaglutide; launch in March

Natco Pharma has received the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's (CDSCO) nod to manufacture and market generic Semaglutide injection in India. Semaglutide is indicated for treatment of adults with insufficiently controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus as an adjunct to diet and exercise. The company will launch the product in the India market in March, Natco said in a filing on Saturday. For the India market, Natco will outsource the production to a fill finish source.

# AI will create jobs even as some roles go away: IT Secretary

NITI Aayog study shows jobs in the regular coding programming side of IT/ITeS will go away, but many more jobs can be created, says S. Krishnan

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

**Keeping tabs:** The Centre will try its best to use the existing legal framework for AI, said Mr. Krishnan. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Artificial intelligence (AI) will create jobs even as some roles go away, said Union Secretary for Electronics and Information Technology S. Krishnan.

In a wide-ranging conversation with *The Hindu* on the upcoming AI Impact Summit, India's semiconductor ambitions, and how the IT Ministry's role in digital governance, he said, "NITI Aayog has done a study which shows that yes, undoubtedly some jobs in the regular coding programming side of IT/ITeS will go away, but we can create many more jobs in terms of what else can happen."

"We have had conversations with many of the people in the IT industry," Mr. Krishnan said.

They say many of the coding and programming jobs are difficult to sustain because that can be done by an AI bot. But when you have to create an application, or when you have to create a solution, then you need to have a better domain expertise, like in agriculture or manufacturing. The deployment of the application takes human resources," he said.

The government would try its best to use the existing legal framework for AI, with some "tweaks," he added. "If you take, for an example, what we can do with the existing Information Technology Act, that's one aspect of it," he said. "The other part of it is what we need to do in the copyright space. So that is being dealt with in a particular way."

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has released a working paper proposing revenue sharing by AI firms for content they use in training their large language models.

"The other part of it is how other data, personal data gets used," Mr. Krishnan said. "So, the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 fits in there. So, we have some of this regulation which is already in place. Some of it requires tweaking, tightening, and that is what we keep attempting to do."

Earlier in the week, the IT Ministry introduced requirements to label AI-generated content. "Labelling is in terms of a right to know," Mr. Krishnan said, arguing that users had a right to identify inauthentic imagery.

"We all have a right to know if what we're seeing is artificially generated. It's a very minor requirement and technologically fairly easy to solve for," he said, pointing out that tech firms have systems to detect deepfakes.

Time limits for court- or government-ordered takedowns were reduced to 2-3 hours from 24-36 hours, Mr. Krishnan said, since "our own experience has been that whenever any such takedowns have been required, most companies did not need more than an hour or two to comply."

# Meta to cut payouts to fact-checking partners in India

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Facebook and Instagram parent Meta is sharply cutting the fees it pays out to professional fact checkers in India, two people with knowledge of discussions between the social media giant and its partners told *The Hindu*.

The amount fact-checking organisations that are approved partners of the social media firm get paid has been reduced for the coming six-month period by anywhere from a third to 50%, they said.

Meta's fact checking partnerships ended in the United States following the election of U.S. President Donald Trump. After that election, the firm's CEO Mark Zuckerberg said that Instagram and Facebook would transition to "Community Notes," a system of fact checking that relies on an ideologically diverse group of users agreeing that a given post needed to be annotated with additional context.

Professional fact checkers were engaged by Meta in December 2016, following concerns about the spread of misinformation on the platform. The fact checkers that the firm partnered with around the world counted on revenue from Meta as a key source of survival. The cuts portend existential concerns for smaller organisations that exclusively do fact checking, as opposed to units within larger newsrooms. One of the people aware of the discussions

Meta's fact checking partnerships ended in the U.S. after Trump's election.

speculated that such smaller organisations may have to lay off some staff to continue operating.

A Meta source told *The Hindu* that the partnerships with fact checking firms are in place still, but couldn't immediately comment on contractual changes.

The firm said that it has plans for its Community Notes feature to go through an "expansion to other countries," although the firm has not unequivocally said whether this would mean that fact checking partnerships outside the U.S. will end or not.

A 2024 review of Community Notes as implemented on X by *The Hindu* showed that the feature failed in the face of polarisation, allowing blatant falsehoods to remain on the platform unannotated. "Research indicated [professionally applied] fact-check labels reduced belief in and sharing of false information," the International Fact Checking Network said in an open letter to Mr. Zuckerberg last January.

# U.S. FDA issues four observations to Piramal's Digwal facility

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) has issued four observations to Piramal Pharma's facility in Digwal, near Hyderabad.

The regulator had conducted a general good manufacturing practices (GMP) inspection of the facility from February 9-13 and on conclusion issued a Form-483 with four observations, the company said in a filing on Saturday.

They are related to enhancement in procedures and not related to data integrity. A detailed response to the observations will be submitted to the U.S. FDA within the stipulated timelines, Piramal Pharma said.

**GPCB direction**

In another filing, the company said Gujarat Pollution Control Board, which earlier this month ordered closure of its Dahej facility citing violation of Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, has granted an interim revocation of the closure directions.

Consequently, the pharma company is authorised to resume operations at the Dahej site with immediate effect.

The company is committed to working on measures with the GPCB to ensure that the interim directions are made final in due course, Piramal Pharma said.

### Xiaomi to strengthen mid-segment growth

**Mini Tejaswi**
BENGALURU

Xiaomi India said it would strengthen its mid-segment focus and stay accessible in 2026, a year where the broader smartphone industry anticipates price increases driven by the roll-out of AI-integrated devices.

Sudhin Mathur, COO, Xiaomi India, told *The Hindu* that the brand entered the year 2026 with a clear intent to stay accessible to a large number of consumers in the country despite shifting market dynamics.

He indicated that the company was moving away from chasing isolated sales volumes and was instead focusing on flagship-level experiences across multiple price tiers, specifically targeting the competitive mid-range segment.

Acknowledging that Indian consumers were holding onto devices longer, the COO said Xiaomi was increasing emphasis on extended software support, security updates, and battery health.

Non-smartphone categories, including tablets, wearables, and AIoT products, now contribute approximately 12% to 15% of Xiaomi's India revenues.

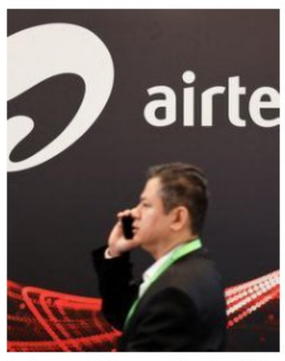
Over 90% of Xiaomi's India portfolio, including tablets and wearables, is currently manufactured locally. The launch of Redmi Note 15 and Redmi Pad 2 Pro earlier this year served as the foundation for this recalibrated approach, Mr. Mathur said, noting that consumer feedback had shifted towards a preference for improved build quality and reliable after-sales service over raw specifications.

# Bharti Airtel among largest investors in subsea cable: Sinha

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel Ltd. has emerged among the largest investors in undersea cables, which connect Indian networks with the global Internet, Sharat Sinha, Airtel Business CEO, told *The Hindu*.

"Today, we operate India's largest undersea cable portfolio, with over 4,00,000 route kilometre across 50 countries in five continents and investments in more than 34 marquee systems such as i2i, EIG, IMEWE, and SEA-ME-WE-4, making us one of the most extensively connected providers globally," he said.




Subsea cables now land mainly at Mumbai and Chennai.

**Crucial infrastructure**

Much of India's Internet relies on content cached in local data centres. The undersea cables provide crucial infrastructure that allows this content to be transported to India and enable phone calls and other use cases where data must be exchanged with other countries.

India has over 400 terabits per second of capacity on such cables. Indian fixed broadband connections had an average download speed of 62 Mbps. But, if all of India's 4.5 crore fixed-line broadband subscribers tried to download a file from abroad, and did not have to share subsea capacity with the 94 crore mobile data subscriptions, they would achieve less than a sixth of that download speed. If all Internet users, including 4G and 5G users, tried to download a file from abroad at the same time, speeds would drop to less than 512 kilobit per second, a fourth of the official definition of broadband.

Subsea cables currently land mainly at Mumbai and Chennai, from where bandwidth is made available to Indian networks. India has fewer cables landing than Singapore, a city state with fewer residents than most Indian metros.

**Policy challenges**

Bharti Airtel said certain policies needed to be tweaked to encourage more subsea cables to land in India. "The subsea industry is a highly capital-intensive sector, therefore policy interventions that enhance the 'ease of doing business' such as tax exemptions for a specific period, customs duty reductions [as most cables and associated equipment are imported into India], streamlined permit and approval process, will be crucial to attract investors to Indian shores," Mr. Sinha added.

"In addition, recognising subsea cable operations as 'essential services" would drive greater synergy among all Government agencies, ensuring faster deployment."

### Online bus bookings rose 25% in 2025: redBus CEO

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Online bus bookings grew 25% in 2025, redBus CEO Prakash Sangam told *The Hindu* in an interview, reflecting growing demand for travel that airlines and railways are not able to keep pace with as quickly as bus operators, as well as an accelerating shift to digital bookings.

"This includes market expansion that is happening because existing operators have added buses and also because they've digitised a lot of operators who were earlier probably selling offline, but they have been able to digitise sales," Mr. Sangam said.

"The largest market continued to be Maharashtra," Mr. Sangam said. Maharashtra is the second most populated State in India, and the third largest by area. The next largest markets for online bus bookings are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, he said.

And majority of seats sold online are air-conditioned: "In terms of the kind of inventory being sold, there is a clear trend towards premiumisation," he said. "The contribution of AC buses has gone up from 67% in the first hour of last year to 71%."

**78% occupancy**

On an average, buses are plying with a fifth of the seats unsold, he said, with an "overall occupancy" of 78%. "Key days on which the occupancy is high is again Fridays and Sundays," he added. As many as 4,000 new buses were added in 2025, he said, of which about 250 were premium Volvo vehicles.

# IOB unveils 444-day term deposit with higher rates

**The Hindu Bureau**

Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has introduced a 444-day Non-Callable Retail Term Deposit scheme offering higher interest rates for the general public and senior citizens. "This strategic move to introduce the non-callable variant reflects IOB's focus on catering to the evolving financial needs of diverse customer base," the lender said.

**KMML** Spreading Splendour
**The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmml.com
**TENDER NOTICE**
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

| No. | Tender ID | Item |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2026_KMML_834771_1 | Procurement of Control & Signal Cables |
| 2. | 2026_KMML_834765_1 | Fabrication and Supply of Recycle Gas Cooler |
| 3. | 2026_KMML_835744_1 | Supply of rail for Clarifloculator with Connectors |
| 4. | 2026_KMML_834812_1 | Supply of Aluminium Trihydrate-1104 MT |
| 5. | 2026_KMML_834790_1 | Supply of Electric Hoists of various capacities |
| 6. | 2026_KMML_835578_1 | Design, Engineering, Supply, Supervision for Installation, Commissioning of 10TPH Automatic Bag Slitting Machine |
| 7. | 2026_KMML_834747_1 | Rubber Lining of Digester F&G |
| 8. | 2026_KMML_833331_1 | Installation of Fire Protection System |
| 9. | 2026_KMML_835838_1 | LDPE Sheet welding, laying in old pond area |

Chavara 14.02.2026 *Sd/-* Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

**Government of Rajasthan**
**Local Self Government Department**
**(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)**
G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.: +91 141 2222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403
Website: www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No:F55()PA/CE(SBM)/SBM-2/Legacy waste/cluster 1-7/2025/2516 Date 03/02/2026
**CORRIGENDUM**
Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by State Mission Director, SBM(U) 2.0, DLB vide NIB no. 83606 dated 26.12.2025 for the works "Bioremediation of Legacy Waste (Total 73.70 Lakh Cum) at old Dumpsites in 153 ULBs under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 cluster 1 to 7". The bidding schedule is being revised for Cluster 1 to 7 as follows:

| Sl No. | Event | Earlier | Revised |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Bid Document submission end Date & Time | 13.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs | 18.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs |
| 2. | Submission of DD/ BG etc. for bid security | 13.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs physically at DLB office separately for each work package. | 18.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs physically at DLB office separately for each work package. |
| 3. | Technical Bid Opening Date & Time | 13.02.2026 at 16:00 Hrs | 18.02.2026 at 16:00 Hrs |

All other terms and conditions will be remain unchanged.
DIPR/C/2864/2026 Chief Engineer, DLB

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPMD)**
(Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001:2015)
(Dept. of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)
Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovalam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112.
Phone: 044 – 2747 2113, 2747 2423. Mobile: 9444314716.
Toll Free No: 18004250345
Email: director@niepmd.tn.nic.in, niepmd@gov.in asponiepmd@gmail.com
Website : www.niepmd.nic.in.
**Tender Notice for carry out Painting of Institute Campus**
NIEPMD invites E-Tender through NIC e-procurement portal URL **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** in two bid system from Central Public Sector Undertakings (Hear after called CPSU) having proven track record in carrying out civil works. The bidder should have successfully executed painting work in a single order / agreement for a value not less than **Rs.02 Crores** or two orders / agreements for values not less than **Rs.1.5 Crores** each (or) three orders / agreements for values not less than **Rs.01 Crores** Each in the last **3 years** as on the scheduled date of tender opening. The tender document can also be downloaded from over website **www.niepmd.nic.in**

| | |
|---|---|
| Last date for E-bidding | 05.03.2026 (02.00 PM) |
| Tender Fee | Nil |
| EMD Amount | Rs.2,00,000/- |
| Date & Time of Opening of Tender Documents | 06.03.2026 (04.00 PM) |

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

**APPOINTMENT**
**KALAM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY (KIHT)**
**IMPORTANT UPDATE**
KIHT will be conducting interviews for various positions of consultants in KIHT and it's associate organizations. Corresponding job descriptions are available on website www.kiht.in

**RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LIMITED**
Regd. Office: Center of Excellence for Revenue Research & Analysis
तृतीय मंजिल, अन्नपूर्ण भवन के पास, झालाना डूंगरी, जयपुर–302004
Tel: 0141-2740841, Fax: 0141-2740676, Email-ID : dgmpurchase.rsgsm@rajasthan.gov.in
**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

| UBN | Particulars | Last Date of Submission Of Bids |
|---|---|---|
| UBN: GSM2526GLRC00118 | Rate Contract for New Glass Nips 180 ML & Bottles 750 ML for Country Liquor, Rajasthan Made Liquor. | Till date 05.03.2026 6.00 p.m. |

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; http://excise.rajasthan.gov.in/, departmental website. Further updates about the bidding will be available only on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in therefore interested bidders are advised to visit above website regularly for updates.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19827 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

**JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004
No:- JDA/EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/2025-26/ Date : 13.02.2026
**NOTICE INVITING BID**
NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/45/2025-26
Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works: -

| S. No. | UBN No. | Cost of Work (Lacs) | Nature of Work | Last Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | JDA2526WSOB00607 | 309.86 | Road | 04.03.2026 |
| 2 | JDA2526WLOB00611 | 754.07 | Road | 05.03.2026 |
| 3 | JDA2526WLOB00612 | 513.01 | Fixing of Railing | 05.03.2026 |

Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in.
Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-I
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19830

# IIT-Delhi, Germany team makes 'chiral valve' to sort current

**Vasudevan Mukunth**

In a new study in *Nature*, scientists from IIT-Delhi and Germany have demonstrated a device to separate electrons based on their 'handedness' without powerful magnetic fields, taking a step towards chiral electronics, which could in future enable low-power devices.

The human left hand is a mirror image of the right; the two can't be perfectly superimposed. In certain complex materials called topological semimetals, electrons possess a similar left or right chirality. (The chirality is a specific quantum state of an electron moving inside the crystal.)

However, these special electrons are usually mixed with 'standard' electrons that lack chirality and detecting them has historically required the use of powerful magnetic fields or precise chemical doping, rendering the technology impractical for daily use. The researchers addressed this challenge by exploiting the quantum geometry of a palladium gallium (PdGa) crystal.

"The single homochiral crystal made by Claudia's group was crucial for the study," Max Planck Institute of Microstructure Physics managing director and study co-author Stuart Parkin told *The Hindu*, referring to the work of fellow author Claudia Felser.

In this crystal, electrons behave like waves as they move through the lattice, which in turn restricts how much energy and momentum the wave can have.

The set of constraints is called the band structure. In the copper wiring in your house, the road is flat and straight. If you apply a voltage, it will push the electron in a straight line. In the crystal, the road is twisted, so even if the electron is moving straight, its path will drift to the side. Which side depends on the electron's handedness.

The team fabricated a small device with three arms and passed an electric current through it. Beyond a threshold, PdGa's quantum geometry pushed left-handed electrons into one arm and right-handed electrons into the other.

"Utilising quantum geometry as a new element, rather than an external magnetic field, was pivotal to achieving the valve functionality," Dr. Parkin said. "It led us to fabricate our unique device geometry to demonstrate that we can control the separation of currents with opposite electronic chirality."

Some roadblocks remain, including the need for ion beams to fabricate the device and ultra-low temperature to operate it, which make practical use infeasible. If these challenges can be overcome, the technology could lead to low-power computing and new forms of magnetic memory.

# Can a hospital gas help fight drug-resistant pneumonia?

Researchers report that high-dose inhaled nitric oxide reduced the levels of drug-resistant bacteria in a large-animal ICU model and proved safe in early human testing; questions remain, however, about the method's benefits and feasibility

**Anirban Mukhopadhyay**

Drug-resistant pneumonia remains a serious complication in intensive care units, where treatment options are limited. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in particular causes about one in five hospital pneumonias and often resists multiple drugs.

A research team at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, affiliated with Harvard Medical School, has reported that a gas already used in neonatal care may have a role in addressing such infections. In a study published in *Science Translational Medicine*, researchers found that a high dose of inhaled nitric oxide reduced drug-resistant *Pseudomonas* in a large-animal ICU model.

The human body naturally produces nitric oxide; doctors also use it at low doses, typically 20-80 ppm, to widen blood vessels in the lungs of patients with acute respiratory failure.

Lorenzo Berra, associate professor of anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and a senior author of the study, said the decision to test much higher concentrations was guided by earlier findings. "At the low doses commonly used in clinical practice, nitric oxide mainly acts as a selective pulmonary vasodilator," he said. In 2021, a mouse study by his colleagues "provided the biological rationale for selecting 300 ppm as the threshold likely required for antimicrobial activity."

Doctors already use nitric acid at low doses to widen blood vessels in the lungs of patients with acute respiratory failure. Representative image. MUFID MAJNUN/UNSPLASH

- Drug-resistant pneumonia in the ICU, especially from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, leaves clinicians with few effective options
- Researchers tested whether nitric oxide at a concentration of 300 ppm can have an antimicrobial effect
- In a study with ventilated pigs, short bursts of nitric oxide cut bacterial counts by 99% over supportive care
- Treated animals also had better oxygenation and lung function, suggesting lung signalling had been restored
- Independent experts have warned about potential toxicity and rapid bacterial rebound after stopping treatment
- Early human tests suggest the treatment could be feasible, but clinical trials and specialised delivery infrastructure are still necessary

To test the approach in a setting mirroring a human ICU, the researchers studied 16 ventilated pigs with pneumonia caused by multidrug-resistant *P. aeruginosa*. They introduced the bacteria directly into the lungs and afforded the animals intensive care for three days.

One-half received short, repeated bursts of inhaled nitric oxide at 300 ppm and the other half received standard supportive care alone, sans antibiotics. The team continuously tracked oxygen levels, lung stiffness, blood pressure, and infection markers, and compared how the two groups changed over time.

The study found that treated animals had 99% lower lung bacterial counts along with better oxygenation and lung function. The authors suggested the gas may help restore chemical signalling in the lung disrupted by severe infection.

Prof. Berra said the findings suggest the approach could be relevant to critically ill patients, though further testing is required.

## Promise and limits

"The animals initially improved, but later their lungs grew stiffer and less able to oxygenate the blood while they were still on the gas," Paul H. Edelstein, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at University of Pennsylvania, said, adding that the harm could have resulted from the toxic effects of nitric oxide, either through elevated methemoglobin, which blocks oxygen delivery, or through direct lung injury.

He also questioned the durability of the antimicrobial effects. Although some bacteria remained, the treated animals had far lower levels of the immune chemicals that cause the lungs to swell and fill with fluid, a chain reaction that cuts off oxygen. This effect persisted over the first two days, when severe pneumonia typically worsens and begins to damage other organs.

To assess whether the doses could be delivered safely, the researchers conducted a small phase 1 study in 10 healthy human volunteers. Participants inhaled nitric oxide at 300 ppm for 30 minutes, thrice a day for five days. Methemoglobin levels rose briefly. The team reported no serious adverse effects.

The group also delivered the high-dose gas to two critically ill ICU patients to test the feasibility. The study showed that the treatment could be administered without immediate serious complications.

Even if future trials confirm clinical benefits, practical barriers remain. Most hospitals are not equipped to deliver nitric oxide at high concentrations and the process requires specialised machinery and trained staff.

"The biggest obstacle would be technical, operational, and monitoring, not biological," he said. Standard systems are capped at 80 ppm and higher doses require continuous monitoring to prevent nitrogen dioxide formation and methemoglobin accumulation.

For Prof. Edelstein, the work represents an important starting point, but "until researchers can show the gas works at non-toxic exposures and delivers lasting benefit, the excitement is premature."

*Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi*

# There are two ways to build skills using AI tools

DECODED

**John Xavier**

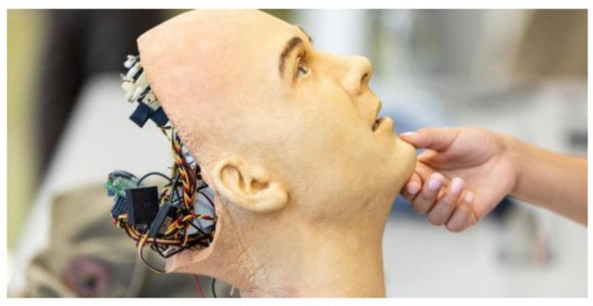
The rapid integration of artificial intelligence into the professional landscape has created a paradoxical promise: the ability to do more while knowing less. As tools like large language models become ubiquitous in fields ranging from software engineering to data analysis, a fundamental question emerges regarding the long-term cost of our newfound efficiency.

A recent study from researchers at Anthropic, titled 'How AI Impacts Skill Formation,' provides a rigorous look into this dilemma.

The researchers studied a group of coders, dividing them into two groups – one with access to AI tools and another without – to complete a coding challenge. At the end of a 35-minute-long coding challenge, all participants were asked to take a test to check their Python programming proficiency.

Upon evaluation, the team found that those in the control group scored higher than those in the treatment pool, suggesting a stark divide between high-scoring and low-scoring interaction patterns. It shows that while AI can accelerate the completion of a task, it can simultaneously decelerate the mind if used as a substitute rather than a supplement.

The treatment group path, identified as the low-scoring interaction pattern, is characterised by what researchers call cognitive offloading. In this scenario, the user treats the AI as a primary agent of execution rather than a collaborator.



The choice between the two ways of building skills rests on how we value our own expertise. REUTERS

They delegate the heavy lifting of code generation and debugging to the AI, moving through the assignment with deceptive speed. This group often finishes tasks fast, yet their comprehension of the underlying mechanics remains remarkably shallow.

By bypassing the iterative, often frustrating process of trial and error, they inadvertently skip the very neurological "struggle" required for deep learning. For these individuals, the AI tool serves as a high-tech crutch; they reach the finish line, but their internal "muscle memory" for the skill is never built, resulting in quiz scores that plummet when the tool is removed.

This contrasts sharply with the high-scoring group whose philosophical approach to AI was fundamentally different. They didn't see AI as a replacement for their own logic but as a peer or a senior.

Instead of asking the AI to "write the code," they asked conceptual questions. They sought explanations for why a particular function is used or requested that the AI break down a generated snippet into its component parts. This group demonstrated a high level of cognitive engagement.

The study's findings suggest that the primary differentiator between these two paths is not the amount of manual labour performed, but the degree of mental involvement. Interestingly, the research noted that even when participants manually retyped code instead of copy-pasting it, their learning did not necessarily improve if they weren't mentally processing the "why" behind the syntax.

This highlights a critical trap in the modern workplace: the illusion of competence. It is possible to be highly productive in the short term by following the low-scoring path of delegation, but this leads to a hollowing out of expertise.

The choice between the two ways of building skills rests on how we value our own expertise. The low-scoring path offers the siren song of immediate results and "vibe coding," where one can produce functional work without a deep grasp of the foundations. The high-scoring path requires more discipline, demanding that we slow down to ask "how" and "why" even when a solution is just a prompt away. To thrive in an AI-augmented world, we must resist the urge to offload our thinking. By choosing the path of high engagement, we ensure that as the tools around us get smarter, we are getting smarter alongside them.

## SNAPSHOTS

### Haematocytes use sleep to help maintain brain health

A study in fruit flies suggests one purpose of sleep is to remove fats from the brain. When flies stayed up, brain cells called cortex glia built up lipid droplets. Scientists found that during deep sleep, circulating immune cells in the blood called haemocytes got next to the blood-brain barrier, and made contact with glial cells. Flies lacking a haematocyte receptor called *eater* also slept less, had higher metabolic stress, poorer memory, and shorter lives.

### Seabird poop helped Chincha Kingdom expand in desert

By analysing isotopes and using carbon dating, scientists have found that people in Peru's Chincha Valley were using seabird droppings by at least 1250 AD. The droppings' high nitrogen content helped farmers raise yields and support larger populations in what was a very dry coastal desert. According to the team's paper, the droppings thus "played an important role in the sociopolitical and economic expansion of the Chincha Kingdom and its eventual relationship with the Inca Empire".

### Climate change could shrink grazing area by half by 2100

Based on climate projections of temperature, rainfall and humidity until 2100, scientists have projected a 36-50% drop in "climatically suitable" grazing area worldwide, but especially in Africa. They also estimated that 110-140 million pastoralists and 1.4-1.6 billion grazing animals could be affected. "In Asia, grazing suitability is projected to expand inland," the paper stated, clustering in "Kazakhstan and Iran". The losses overlap with countries already facing poverty, hunger, gender inequality, and political fragility.

## Question Corner

# Toddler trade-off

**Why don't all animals give birth to the same number of babies at a time?**
*– N. Ramalakshmi*

The answer is a combination of how many eggs are released or ovulated and the species' survival strategy.

Many large mammals like elephants, cows, and humans usually release one egg per cycle and commit heavily to that one offspring. Pregnancy is long, the baby is relatively big, and the mother invests a lot of energy in nurturing it.

Many dogs, cats, pigs, rodents, rabbits, etc. often release multiple eggs in one cycle, so multiple embryos can develop at once. Their uterus is also built to carry several foetuses. And their newborns are smaller, the pregnancy is shorter, and the strategy is to produce many because not all will survive.

Tigers occupy a middle ground: they typically have litters of up to four cubs because their survival in the wild is uncertain, yet they still invest a lot in each cub. They don't usually have larger litters like dogs because each cub is still 'costly' to raise and needs a lot of milk and protection.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

# What has govt. laid down on AI labelling?

What do the new rules specify with respect to AI-generated imagery and social media takedowns?

**Aroon Deep**

**The story so far:**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) earlier this week notified an amendment to the IT Rules, 2021, that would require users and social media platforms to label AI-generated content, and tighten the takedown timelines for all content – not just AI-generated posts – from 24-36 hours to two to three hours. The rules come into effect on February 20.

### What about AI-generated content?

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026 require social media platforms to "prominently" label "synthetically generated" content, or AI-generated images and videos. The requirement was first proposed in October last year, and was notified this week. Social media platforms with more than five million users are required to obtain a "user declaration [for AI-generated content] and [conduct] technical verification before publishing [AI-generated content]".

MeitY said in an explanatory document that this requirement was introduced to counter "deepfakes, misinformation, and other unlawful content capable of misleading users, causing users harm, violating privacy, or threatening national integrity," and that it was important that users be aware whether what they are viewing is inauthentic.

> The timelines for responding to user reports on 'sensitive' content has been slashed from 72 hours to 36 hours

The October draft definition of "Synthetically Generated Information" (SGI) was wider, encompassing any audiovisual content that was AI-modified or generated. The final rules carve out some exemptions: for instance, smartphone-clicked photos that are retouched automatically by the camera app will not be considered SGI, and special effects in films will not be considered something that needs to be labelled. The rules also prohibit certain types of SGI: child sexual exploitation and abuse material, forged documents, information on developing explosives, and deepfakes falsely representing a real person.

### How can AI-generated content be detected?

The government has asked large platforms to "deploy reasonable and appropriate technical measures to prevent unlawful SGI, and to ensure labelling/provenance/identifier requirements for permissible SGI". A senior official at the IT Ministry argued that large platforms have sophisticated tools to detect SGI, and that this requirement merely requires them to perform detection that they are already doing. Additionally, some AI firms and platforms have participated in the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA), which offers technical standards to invisibly label AI-generated content in a way that can be read by other platforms, in case AI-based detection fails. The rules allude to this effort by requiring "provenance/identifier requirements," but the official said they don't want to endorse any single effort, but would like to formalise the aims of such collaborations.

### How have time limits changed?

The IT Rules enable some government authorities and police officials to issue takedown notices under Rule 3(1)(b), and users to send in grievances for "illegal" categories of content enumerated in the IT Rules. Those categories include misinformation, nudity, and threats to sovereignty. For both government- and court-issued takedown notices, the timelines have been reduced to 2-3 hours, while for all other categories of user complaints (like defamation and misinformation), the response timelines have been reduced from two weeks to one week. The timelines for responding to user reports (under Rule 3(2)(b)) on "sensitive" content has also been slashed from 72 hours to 36 hours. The government reasoned that the previous limits allowed a lot of damage to be done even within those timelines, necessitating a revisit of the time platforms have to act.

### What other changes have been made?

Users will now have to receive a reminder of platforms' terms and conditions more often. "The amendments include revisions to Rule 3(1)(c) of the Intermediary Rules, increasing the frequency of user notifications from once every year to at least once every 3 (three) months, and expanding the content of such notifications to clarify potential consequences of non-compliance and reporting obligations," JSA Advocates and Solicitors said in an analysis.

The rules also require platforms to specifically warn users that harmful deepfakes and other illegal AI-generated content could expose them to legal action, including the disclosure of their identity to law enforcement agencies and "immediate disabling of access or removal of such content, suspension or termination of user accounts", JSA said in its analysis.

# How is U.S.-India trade deal being tweaked?

What are the areas that have come under scrutiny? Has India stopped buying Russian oil as Donald Trump has claimed? What is happening in the agricultural sector? Has the reference to pulses been removed from the draft? When is the formal agreement expected to be signed?

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**

**The story so far:**

The Interim Agreement between India and the U.S. on trade has buoyed investor sentiment in India, especially because of the prospect of tariffs on Indian exports to the U.S. reducing to 18%. However, since the deal was announced through a joint statement on February 7, the contours of what it could include have been the source of much ambiguity. This is especially true in four broad areas: oil, agriculture, textiles, and the value of overall imports from the U.S.

### What does the joint statement say?

The joint statement said that the U.S. has agreed to apply a reciprocal tariff of 18% on imports from India. This would entail a reduction from the existing 25%. The statement itself did not mention the additional 25% penal tariff the U.S. had levied on India for its imports of Russian oil. However, U.S. President Donald Trump took to social media saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had agreed to stop importing Russian oil. Further, on February 6, Mr. Trump issued an executive order removing the 25% penal tariff saying that "India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil". Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said that he expects the executive order reducing the remaining 25% reciprocal tariffs to 18% to be issued this week.

In return for this reduction in reciprocal tariffs, the joint statement said India has agreed to remove tariffs on U.S. exports of "all U.S. industrial goods and a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products", which includes Dried Distillers' Grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and "additional products". Further, the joint statement said that India "intends to" buy $500 billion worth of U.S. energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next five years.

> Centre has refused to deny the repeated statements by Trump that India has agreed to stop buying oil from Russia

**In rage:** Members of trade unions hold banners during a nationwide strike to protest an interim trade deal with the U.S. in New Delhi, on February 12. AP

### What is the confusion over oil imports?

The confusion arises from the fact that the Indian government has refused to categorically deny the repeated statements by Mr. Trump and senior officials of his administration that India has agreed to stop buying oil from Russia. A factsheet on the India-U.S. deal issued by the White House also says the same.

While an analysis of government data up to December 2025 shows that India's imports of Russian oil had fallen to a 38-month low that month, the government has not made clear its position on Russian oil imports since then. When asked about the issue, both Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri have directed all questions to the Ministry of External Affairs. In repeated press conferences, officials of the Ministry of External Affairs have not answered direct "yes or no" questions on whether India has committed to reducing its Russian oil imports. In a public statement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said earlier this week that India's energy sourcing is guided by pricing, availability, and risks but did not directly address the Russian issue.

### How will agriculture be affected?

The agriculture sector is another area that has created a lot of controversy. Opposition parties have taken the wording of the joint statement, which said India has agreed to eliminate tariffs on "a wide range of U.S. food and agricultural products", to attack the government for hurting the interests of India's farmers. Mr. Goyal, through various press briefings and interviews, including to *The Hindu*, made assurances that Indian farmers had no reason to worry and that all sensitive agricultural items and dairy would be kept out of the deal.

While listing the various agricultural items that were excluded from the deal, Mr. Goyal told *The Hindu* that this would include "pulses in which we are self-sufficient in India, like green peas, kabuli chana, moong". The question of what happens to other pulses again came to the fore when the White House uploaded its fact sheet. In the original version, the list of items on which India had agreed to eliminate or reduce tariffs included pulses. That version has since been updated, with the reference to pulses being removed.

On Friday, both Mr. Goyal and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released separate video messages assuring farmers that their interests would not be compromised in the U.S. deal.

### What about India's purchase of U.S. goods?

Mr. Trump's original post on Truth Social said that Prime Minister Modi had committed to "buy American" in addition to $500 billion worth of energy, technology, agricultural, coal, and "many other products".

The joint statement, while clarifying that these purchases were to be spread over five years, also said that it was an intention and did not use the word commitment. However, the White House factsheet again said that India had committed to buying $500 billion worth of goods from the U.S. The amended version now also says this is an "intention".

The $500 billion of imports of goods from the U.S. will not overly concentrate on India's supply chains towards the U.S., Mr. Goyal said in his interview to *The Hindu*. He said that India currently imports about $300 billion of electronics, energy, parts for data centres and semiconductors, and airplanes and their parts from across the world. This amount, he said, is expected to grow to $2 trillion in five years. So, he argued that importing $500 billion of this from the U.S. would not entail any concentration of India's supply chains.

### Why is there ambiguity over textile exports?

Once Mr. Trump signs the executive order lowering India's reciprocal tariffs to 18% from 25%, the tariff on India's textile exports too will fall to 18%. The sector welcomed this with great enthusiasm since the U.S. is a major export destination for the sector and the earlier 50% tariffs were hurting the industry.

However, just days after India and the U.S. announced their deal, the U.S. and Bangladesh also announced a trade deal. Under this deal, Bangladesh's exports to the U.S. would face tariffs of 19%. In addition, the agreement included a clause that specified that if Bangladesh imports cotton from the U.S., then the textiles exported using that cotton would face 0% duties in the U.S.

Opposition parties were quick to point out that this would render Indian textile exporters relatively uncompetitive even before India's deal with the U.S. has been signed.

Now, however, Mr. Goyal has said that Indian textile exporters will receive the same benefits as Bangladeshi textile exporters. That is, under the Interim Agreement, if Indian textile makers import American cotton, then their exports to the U.S. would attract 0% tariffs. This had not been mentioned by him earlier. Mr. Goyal and other officials of the Commerce Ministry have said that the formal agreement is expected to be signed in mid-March. It is only after that that more details will be made clear.

# What's in store for garment exporters to U.S.?

What has the U.S. promised Bangladesh with respect to textiles? What are the conditions laid down by the U.S. to give Bangladeshi exporters unprecedented access to American markets? What is the assurance that Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal gave Indian textile exporters?

**M. Soundariya Preetha**

**The story so far:**

In the U.S.-Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, signed on February 9, the U.S. has committed to "establish a mechanism that will allow for certain textile and apparel goods from Bangladesh to receive a zero reciprocal tariff rate". A statement from the White House said this mechanism will provide for a to-be-specified volume of apparel and textile imports from Bangladesh to enter the U.S. at this reduced tariff rate, but that the volume shall be determined based on the use of U.S. produced cotton and MMF (man-made fibre) textile inputs. Following concerns in the Indian textile and garment industry, which is the largest employment generator after agriculture, Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said that India is to have the same facility as Bangladesh, and that Indian garment and textile exporters will also benefit.

### What does data of the countries indicate?

Of the total imports of $16.1 billion of textile inputs by Bangladesh in 2024, $3.1 billion went from India. Bangladesh imports approximately 85 lakh bales of cotton annually, mainly from Brazil, India, and African countries for its nearly 500 spinning mills. India exported 12-14 lakh bales of cotton to Bangladesh in 2024-25, of its total production of about 300 lakh bales. It also shipped $1.47 billion worth of cotton yarn (570 million kg) to Bangladesh, which was the biggest destination for Indian yarn, in 2024-25. Bangladesh buys more yarn and fabric from other countries than the basic raw material – fibre, according to a report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). Bangladesh exported $50.9 billion in garments globally in 2024, and of it, $7.4 billion went to the U.S.

> Bangladesh's garment industry depends heavily on imported textile inputs, especially yarn and fabric, for making garments

**Uncertain future:** A garment factory in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, in 2025. REUTERS

Of the annual garment exports of $16 billion from India, almost one-third goes to the U.S. At present, international cotton prices (landed cost) have a 2% to 8% price difference, depending on the country of origin and the buying country.

### Will trade dynamics tilt towards Bangladesh?

Indian textile and garment exporters feel things will not change immediately or much because of the U.S.-Bangladesh deal. A GTRI report notes that over 63%, or $32.3 billion, of Bangladesh's garment exports went to the European Union, duty-free. Since the EU is Bangladesh's main market, its garment supply chains are built to serve European buyers.

Bangladesh's garment industry depends heavily on imported textile inputs, especially yarn and fabric, for making garments. To qualify for zero tariffs of the U.S., Bangladesh should replace long-established suppliers and invest heavily in new spinning and fabric-processing capacity, which it currently lacks. According to the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, the Bangladesh textile industry should change its product mix and realign its raw material supply chains to benefit from the use of American cotton. Its textile mills are already in a crisis, say Indian yarn exporters.

### What is the extent of India-U.S. cotton trade?

India imports close to five lakh bales of U.S. cotton annually, of which 2.5 lakh bales are of extra long staple (ELS) cotton and the other 2.5 lakh bales are non-ELS cotton. India is one of the leading users of American PIMA cotton, which is a premium ELS variety. Several Indian textile mills are already nominated by American brands to supply yarn made of American cotton for garments. India currently levies 11% import duty on cotton, except for ELS cotton. Indian garment exporters will get similar access to the U.S. market as Bangladesh exporters, Mr. Goyal has said.

### What are the concerns?

While Indian goods will attract 18% reciprocal tariff in the U.S., goods from Bangladesh will attract 19% from the earlier 20%. Thus, the U.S. tariff difference between India and Bangladesh has halved with the U.S.-Bangladesh agreement. Bangladesh is already among the leading exporters of textiles and apparel to the U.S., alongside China, Vietnam, and India. Both, India and Bangladesh make predominantly cotton-based apparel.

Shafiqul Alam, information adviser to Chief Adviser Mohammed Yunus, told *The Hindu* that Bangladesh has traditionally imported cotton from India and Central Asia as it does not produce the cotton or yarns necessary for its textile sector. It will replace Indian cotton with U.S.-produced cotton as a result of the U.S.-Bangladesh trade deal, he said. The immediate impact is likely to be on Indian cotton and yarn exporters. However, Indian exporters still have a lot of unanswered questions, such as if the U.S.-India agreement does give Indian garment exporters a similar facility to the U.S. market, will the Indian government waive the import duty on U.S. cotton? Will it allow specific quantities to be imported by India duty-free?

### Will there be benefits for garment exporters buying American cotton?

There is every possibility of U.S. cotton prices firming up when demand increases. If cotton is available from any other country at a lower cost, will U.S. customers find it cost competitive to buy garments made from U.S. cotton? There is also no clarity on how the U.S. will determine the quantity of U.S. cotton in a garment or textile product. Both India and Bangladesh garment exporters will get relief only from the reciprocal tariff if they use U.S. cotton and not the basic duty. While waiving of tariff by the U.S. for products made from U.S. cotton or MMF will certainly benefit Indian garment exporters, they are hoping the Indian government will evolve a system that will take into consideration all the practical implications and necessities for the effective operation of such a facility.

# *Return of the old guard*

## Bangladesh Nationalist Party

The party founded by General Ziaur Rahman, which champions Bangladeshi nationalism, has returned to power with a huge mandate to steer the country through a tumultuous period

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**

"This is Major Zia speaking." That is how Major Ziaur Rahman debuted in the public life of his country on March 27, 1971. Minutes earlier, Zia had driven to the Kalurghata radio transmitter centre of Chittagong. In his firm voice, he announced the independence of East Pakistan and the beginning of Bangladesh. The condition of Bangladesh was tragic at that time. Two days earlier, the Pakistani forces had started Operation Searchlight with the killing of hundreds of thousands of people across Dhaka and elsewhere, triggering a massive exodus of people to neighbouring Indian States.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the leader of the movement for freedom, had been arrested and flown to Pakistan. Other top leaders like Tajuddin Ahmed and Syed Nazrul Islam had begun their perilous journey to the border with India where weeks later they would launch a guerrilla movement. A disciplined officer in the Pakistani Army, Zia had fought in the western sector in the 1965 war with India and had been decorated for his valour. But Zia had been seething because of the lack of respect that Bengali officers were shown in Pakistan's military.

Soon after the massacre began on March 25, Zia rebelled and arrested and killed the commanding officer of his unit, Lt. Col. Abdur Rashid Janjua, and other non-Bengali officers. He asked the radio operator to convey to the guerrilla fighters that, "Eighth battalion of the East Bengal Regiment has rebelled. They will now fight for the independence of Bangladesh." Thus began a new journey that would lead Zia to launch his own guerrilla group Z-force that fought in Sylhet, Dhaka and the eastern part of Bangladesh while basing out of Tura in Meghalaya and Tripura.

The guerrilla war by the Mukti Bahini and Z-force and other smaller groups finally culminated in the India-Pakistan war of 1971 and liberation of Bangladesh. Liberation, however, started a new warfare – an internal power struggle of Bangladesh.

In January 1975, Sheikh Mujibur, unable to contain public disturbances following the disastrous famine of 1974 and poor economic conditions, launched a single-party system called BAKSAL (Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League). Mujib was assassinated in a coup.

**Decisive win:** Tarique Rahman is credited with leading the BNP to victory in the election, and is set to become the next Prime Minister. REUTERS

After his killing, Khondokar Mushtaq, a close associate-turned-betrayer, formed a government consisting of Awami League and BAKSAL leaders. On October 3, he announced that the situation would start normalising from next year and that from August 15, 1976, the ban on political activities would be lifted and a general election would be held on February 28, 1977. A powerful section of the military that extended support to Mushtaq felt that in case of elections, other four top leaders of Awami League who were imprisoned could win.

### Rise to power

That powerful wing of the military that wanted prolonged control over civilian administration killed four other national leaders (Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mansur Ali and A.H.M. Quamruzzaman) who had formed the Bangladesh government in exile in 1971. Four days after the jail killings, Dhaka witnessed the "military mutiny" that brought in Ziaur Rahman to the forefront. On paper, Zia was the Deputy Martial Law Administrator but actual control of the government slipped to his hands in the absence of effective political leadership.

The history of 1971 Liberation War is written from multiple angles. In one version, Mujib gave the call for liberation with his rousing speech of March 7, 1971 that was followed by the April 10 declaration by Tajuddin Ahmed as the leader of the government in exile. In another version, the story is narrated from the point of view of Zia, who declared independence after killing his Pakistani commanding officer in Chittagong. In the second story, Zia is the symbol of freedom of Bangladesh and that is where the mythical origin of the BNP's politics lay.

Since taking charge effectively in November 1975, Zia experimented with politics and ideology. He introduced himself in public speeches as a soldier first and then as a farmer. He wanted to take full control of the armed forces and bring a semblance of normalcy in civil bureaucracy. In a speech broadcast on radio and TV on November 11, 1975, Zia said: "I am not a politician. I am a soldier. I have no relation with politics and our government is totally nonpartisan and apolitical." On April 21, 1977, Gen. Zia declared himself the President and in a subsequent national referendum, he secured 98.8% vote to stay in power.

On May 22, 1977, Zia launched the 19-point agenda that expressed his faith in "Almighty Allah" and said his government would ensure justice for all citizens irrespective of religion, caste, and other differences.

His political philosophy first came out as the public announcement from the brief experimental 'Nationalist Front'. On June 3, 1978, Bangladesh witnessed a presidential election in which Zia contested as the leader of the Nationalist Front and received a majority vote even as his opponents criticised the election as controversial. On June 12, 1978, Zia took the oath of office as the President of Bangladesh. As President, he needed a political vehicle. According to veteran author Mohiuddin Ahmed, it was President Zia who came up with the name of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). On August 30, 1978, the BNP was registered.

On September 1, 1978, in a press conference on Dhaka's Romna Restaurant premises, Zia formally announced the launch of the party.

Out of the seven years between the Liberation War and the launch of the BNP, Zia spent four in the shadow of Mujib. The BNP emerged at a time when a weakened Awami League was led by Zohra Tajuddin, widow of Tajuddin Ahmed, and Abdel Malek Ukil. The BNP based itself on "Bangladeshi nationalism", not Bengali nationalism. Humayun Kobir, the foreign policy adviser of the current BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, said: "Bangladeshi nationalism is territorially defined. It means nationalism of the citizens who live on the land of Bangladesh."

### Period of agitation

Zia's nationalistic outlook was meant for his domestic audience. Abroad he advocated multilateralism and dialogue and reached out to world leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai and U.S. President Jimmy Carter. After the assassination of President Zia on May 30, 1981 in the Chittagong Circuit House, the BNP's political journey was paused. Gen. Hossein Mohammed Ershad took charge of the country.

During the interregnum, Khaleda Zia, widow of Gen. Zia, took charge of the party in 1984. During the Ershad years, the BNP agitated for restoration of parliamentary democracy alongside the Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina. Khaleda Zia brought the BNP back to power in 1991. Tarique Rahman entered the centre stage after the BNP came to power in 2001. Tarique is now credited with leading the party to a historic victory in the February 12 election, and is set to become the next Prime Minister.

The BNP's origin lies in the psychology of the proud armed forces and bureaucratic elite of East Pakistan who were caught between the freedom movement for Bangladesh and the instability of the mid-1970s, says Mohiuddin Ahmed, an expert on the BNP's history. Today, the party has emerged as the most powerful political vehicle in a restless nation.

### THE GIST

- On September 1, 1978, in a press conference on Dhaka's Romna Restaurant premises, President Ziaur Rahman formally announced the launch of the BNP
- The BNP emerged at a time when a weakened Awami League was led by Zohra Tajuddin, widow of Tajuddin Ahmed, and Abdel Malek Ukil
- The BNP based itself on 'Bangladeshi nationalism', not Bengali nationalism. Bangladeshi nationalism is territorially defined. It means nationalism of the citizens who live on the land of Bangladesh, says the party

# *Crisis manager*

## Piyush Goyal

The Commerce Minister finds himself on the frontline when the government is busy defending the U.S. trade deal which critics say is one-sided

**Saptaparno Ghosh**

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

On a moderately hot afternoon at Delhi's Vanijya Bhawan in 2025, journalists were eager to ask questions to the Commerce Minister about the fallout from the U.S.'s unilateral imposition of 50% tariffs on India. Piyush Goyal is no stranger to such questions. Reading the room with care, Mr. Goyal underlined that any trade deal India might secure would be anchored in principles of "mutually beneficial, reciprocal and equitable".

But with the U.S. tariffs, the mood was different in the country. For the government, the move coincided with the Monsoon Session of Parliament, with the Opposition pressing for an immediate statement in a session already marred by repeated disruptions. Greeted with loud protests within hours of the tariffs announcement, Mr. Goyal assured the House that the government was examining the situation, and would safeguard national interests, before leaving amid continued uproar.

This was not the first time Mr. Goyal was caught in a storm.

In 2018, during his tenure as the Railway Minister, Mr. Goyal faced protests from candidates who had concluded their apprenticeship training over the removal of their 20% quota. His convoy was targeted during demonstrations in Uttar Pradesh. Protests later subsided after he appealed to the protesters to apply for the ongoing recruitment drive, whose deadline was nearing.

Son of Vedprakash Goyal, a senior BJP leader and former Minister for shipping and waterways, and Chandrakanta Goyal, Piyush, a chartered accountant by profession, commands significant confidence within the party.

### Multiple portfolios

Since 2017, Mr. Goyal has handled a range of portfolios, including Finance, Corporate Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Coal. Beyond his administrative roles, he has been one of the ruling party's principal political negotiators.

Perhaps, his long tenure in the party and the government, along with his commerce background, was among the factors that prompted the BJP to appoint Mr. Goyal Finance Minister in January 2019, days ahead of the interim Budget.

The decision followed then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley travelling to the U.S. for medical treatment. "The orders issued by Prime Minister Modi made it clear that Piyush Goyal would work under the guidance of Arun Jaitley and all important files would be disposed of and decisions taken only after consulting Arun Jaitley," former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg wrote in his book, *We Also Make Policy*.

Conventionally, no grand announcements are made during interim Budgets in an election year. Breaking the convention, Mr. Goyal announced income support for farmers with the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), and an exemption on paying I-T tax for incomes up to ₹5 lakh.

Since the announcement of the U.S. trade deal, the government's crisis manager has the task of addressing farmers' concerns over the opening up of agriculture to the U.S.

For the second time this decade, he has been entrusted with reassuring farmers that their interests have been adequately protected. For context, Mr. Goyal was also part of the delegation that negotiated with protesting farmers seeking the repeal of the farm laws in 2020-21. (In November 2021, Prime Minister Modi announced that he would repeal the farm laws.)

This time, the trade deal is being slammed by its critics as one-sided. U.S. President Trump has said India would end buying oil from Russia, start "buying American" and open up sectors.

Mr. Goyal finds himself on the frontline as the government seeks to defend the deal and calm nerves. "Not a single farmer has anything to worry about" in the trade deal, Mr. Goyal told *The Hindu* in a recent interview.

But he also added he can't comment on Mr. Trump's remark that India would stop purchasing Russian oil. "I don't deal with that subject. It is not part of my joint statement or the trade deal," he said in the interview.

# *Mayor rising*

## Ritu Tawde

The new BMC chief has to navigate a strong and experienced opposition and a small but assertive ally while steering the city's administration

**Vinaya Deshpande Pandit**

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

The 133-year-old heritage hall in the iconic Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters was readied this week to welcome its elected representatives. After a gap of over four years, the opulent chamber, featuring Burma Teak wood, gold-leaf motifs, and colonial-era chandeliers, once again hosted corporators. Among them was Mumbai's 78th Mayor, Ritu Tawde, who walked in with a saffron turban, draped in a saffron sari. She took charge from the administrator and BMC Commissioner, Bhushan Gagrani.

Ms. Tawde, 53, became the second BJP mayor and the eighth woman mayor of South Asia's richest civic body. She is an assertive, young, Marathi, Maratha, Konkani woman face of the BJP from the Gujarati-dominated Ghatkopar area, which has traditionally voted for the party. The two-term corporator takes charge as Mumbai's mayor, a largely titular yet socially significant position, amid challenging times.

Though this is the first time the BJP has emerged as the largest party in the BMC, it does not command a majority on its own. In the 227-member House, it holds 89 corporators. Its ally, Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, has secured 29 seats. This is significantly lower than the tally of the Shiv Sena group led by Uddhav Thackeray, which contested the BMC for the first time since the 2022 split. Uddhav Thackeray fought against the collective might of the BJP and Shiv Sena and won 65 seats. With this, his party has become the principal Opposition, comprising several experienced faces. Notably, four former mayors of Mumbai are part of the Shiv Sena UBT's ranks in the BMC. In contrast, the BJP has one of the highest numbers of newcomers.

Senior BJP leaders said her name emerged as a leading contender soon after the mayor's post was declared reserved for women in the open category. "The party wanted someone who is dashing, energetic, articulate, and who can respond to situations quickly. We wanted someone who can take up Hindutva aggressively, who understands the city's dynamics well, and who has some experience. Someone who is educated and who can take the BMC's internal system head-on," a senior BJP leader said. "She fit the bill well. She will have to take up challenges. The party is acutely aware that it will have to struggle with an administrative system which had been controlled by another party (Shiv Sena UBT) for decades. As the mayor, Ritu Tawde will have to weed out corruption in the corporation and expose nexuses in development projects."

### From Congress to BJP

For Ms. Tawde, who began her public journey over 22 years ago through social work in Ghatkopar and was later chosen by Congress leader Gurudas Kamat to contest the 2007 BMC elections on party ticket, challenges are nothing new. She left the Congress in 2012 after being abruptly denied ticket, and subsequently contested on BJP ticket and won. She credits her husband and her mother-in-law, a schoolteacher, with nurturing her social aspirations. "My children were very young then, but my mother-in-law used to insist that I must make time for myself, do something with my life. I started with social work for women, helping them fight domestic abuse and start small economic ventures," she said. Ms. Tawde headed the Education Committee during her last term. But her claim to fame was her fight against the roadside display of mannequins with scanty clothes.

For the senior BJP leadership, what stood out was her drive to work without expecting any rewards, leaders said. BJP MLC Prasad Lad, who has known Ms. Tawde for over a decade, praised her for her work during COVID. Pravin Darekar, another BJP leader, said he was impressed by her efforts to help women in need. "She would often get them to the bank to help them get small loans. She never asked for anything for herself."

As Ms. Tawde trains her guns on "illegal Bangladeshi hawkers", the city will expect her to deliver on basic priorities like clean air, better travel, a better public transport system, safe infrastructure work, among other things.

MUNICH

## Zelenskyy says every power plant in Ukraine damaged in strikes

AFP

Every power plant in Ukraine has been damaged by Russian attacks, forcing millions to face heating cuts in the cold, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the Munich Security Conference on Saturday, calling Russia's Vladimir Putin a "slave to war". He added that "no one in Ukraine believes (Putin) will let our people go". AFP

MUNICH

## Rubio reassures Europe, says U.S. wants to recharge transatlantic ties

AFP

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio sought to reassure a nervous Europe on Saturday, saying that Washington wanted to recharge the transatlantic alliance so that a strong Europe could help the U.S. on its mission of global "renewal". He added that the continent and the U.S. "belong together". AFP

GENEVA

## Switzerland says Oman to host U.S.-Iran talks in Geneva this week

REUTERS

Switzerland on Saturday said that Oman would host talks between the United States and Iran in Geneva the coming week, with Washington pushing Tehran to make a deal to limit its nuclear programme. Switzerland has played a key role in diplomatic relations between Iran and the United States for decades. AFP

MUNICH

## China warns U.S. that 'plotting' on Taiwan could lead to 'confrontation'

AP

Beijing's top diplomat Wang Yi warned the United States on Saturday against "plotting" on Taiwan, saying it could lead to a "confrontation" with China. He added that he hoped Washington would pursue a "positive and pragmatic" approach, "but we are also prepared to deal with various risks". AFP

# Electoral differences should not turn into revenge: Tarique Rahman

'I call upon all BNP leaders and activists across the country to remain calm and vigilant so that no malicious force can exploit the situation to create unrest,' says the BNP leader; he pledges to make Bangladesh 'a safe and humane nation'

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
DHAKA

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairman Tarique Rahman on Saturday reached out to all parties that contested the February 12 parliamentary election and said political parties may have differing paths but on national interest they should all unite. Addressing a tightly packed press conference in Intercontinental Hotel here, he urged BNP colleagues to ensure that "no unpleasant incidents" occur anywhere in Bangladesh in the post-poll scenario.

Tarique Rahman attends a press conference in Dhaka on Saturday following the BNP's victory in the 13th general election. REUTERS

"During the election, while competing against one another, misunderstandings or discord may have risen in some places. I urge everyone to ensure that such disputes do not turn in to revenge or retaliation," said Mr. Rahman. His outreach came hours after Jamaat-e-Islami circulated a list of attacks that the party's cadre had faced over the past two days.

"I call upon all BNP leaders and activists across the country to remain calm and vigilant so that no malicious force can exploit the situation to create unrest," said Mr. Rahman, who paid tribute to the memory of his mother, the late Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and said she fought "resolutely" against the previous government of Sheikh Hasina till her "last days".

Mr. Rahman's public appearance came a day after his party won an absolute majority in Parliament - Jatiyo Sansad. In the press conference, he was accompanied by several members of the BNP's standing committee, including Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Amir Khosru Mahmud Choudhury, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, and Mirza Abbas.

He sought "cooperation from all, regardless of party and opinion" in combating corruption, maintaining law and order, and in ensuring accountability to the people so that Bangladesh can become a "safe and humane nation". "Our position is clear. Peace and order must be maintained at any cost," he said. "Under no circumstances will attacks by the strong against the weak be accepted," he added.

# Jamaat will be a vigilant Opposition, says its chief

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
DHAKA

Jamaat-e-Islami will serve as a 'vigilant' Opposition and hold the government of Bangladesh to account, its leader Shafiqur Rahman said on Saturday in a statement. His remarks came a day after the largest Islamist party of Bangladesh alleged that the election process had "inconsistencies and fabrications" after the 11-party alliance led by it won 77 seats in the national Parliament.

"I know many of you are feeling hurt and deeply disappointed. That is natural. When you invest your heart into a cause, you feel its outcome deeply. But let me say this clearly: your efforts were not in vain. With 77 seats, we have nearly quadrupled our parliamentary presence and become one of the strongest Opposition blocs in modern Bangladeshi politics," said Mr. Rahman. "That is a foundation," he added.

Shafiqur Rahman

**Stark contrast**

Jamaat's electoral gains are in stark contrast with its past performances in the elections in Bangladesh as its highest score before this was in 1991 when it won 18 seats, largely because of the support that it received from the BNP. However, the 77 seats that the Islamist alliance won this time was below the expectation of the party. According to sources in the party, Jamaat was hoping to cross the tally of hundred. On Saturday, Mr. Rahman complained that the election was riddled with "inconsistencies", alleging that there was a lack of transparency from the Election Commission. Mr. Rahman said "political fortunes change," adding that "in 2008, the BNP was reduced to 30 seats before returning to form government in 2026, a journey that took 18 years."

"We will serve as a vigilant, principled, and peaceful Opposition, holding the government to account," he added.

# With a second aircraft carrier deployment, Trump raises the stakes with Iran

NEWS ANALYSIS

**Stanly Johny**

Asked if he wants regime change in Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump told presspersons on Friday that it "would be the best thing that could happen". Mr. Trump, who last month threatened to strike Iran if Iran killed protesters, confirmed that a second aircraft carrier is "going out shortly" to West Asia. "For 47 years, they've been talking and talking and talking," Mr. Trump said. "In the meantime, we've lost a lot of lives while they talk. So, let's see what happens."

The U.S. has already deployed *USS Abraham Lincoln* to the Arabian Sea, some 500 km off Iran's Persian Gulf coast. On Friday, officials told U.S. media that the second carrier going to the region would be *USS Gerald R. Ford*, the world's largest aircraft carrier. *Ford* is currently in the Caribbean where it was deployed before Mr. Trump's January 3 attack on Venezuela. The last time West Asian waters had two aircraft carriers was in June 2025 when the U.S. joined Israel to bomb Iran during the 12-day war.

Donald Trump, who initially said he would strike Iran over its protest crackdown, switched his focus to nuclear programme. AP

**Talking points**

Mr. Trump, who initially said he would strike Iran over its crackdown on protests, later switched his focus to Iran's nuclear programme. Recently, he has repeatedly warned that Iran would face "profound consequences" if it did not agree to a deal with the U.S. Tehran says it is ready to talk about its nuclear programme, but only about the nuclear programme. Israel has demanded that any deal between the U.S. and Iran should also address the latter's ballistic missile capability and its support for militia groups in the region.

While diplomats from Iran and the U.S., who met on February 6 in Muscat, are set to continue talks, the U.S. is building a war-like military presence in the region. Besides the *Lincoln* strike group with its air wing including F/A-18E Super Hornets, F-35C Lightning Iis and EA-18G Growlers, the Pentagon has also sent guided missile destroyers and combat ships to the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Strait of Hormuz and Mediterranean. It has also moved some 35 F-15E Strike Eagles to the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, tanker aircraft to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, besides A-10 and MQ-9 drones and electronic warfare aircraft. The U.S. has also deployed additional THAAD and Patriot systems to protect its bases in the region.

The U.S. has some 50,000 troops across at least 19 bases in West Asia.

Iran has said that it is ready for "fair and equitable" talks, but would not accept coercion. While keeping the door open for a diplomatic solution, Iran says its fingers remain "on the trigger". The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has carried out a live drill in the Persian Gulf in recent weeks. Iran's top security officials say even a limited U.S. strike could trigger an all-out regional war.

The U.S. is ramping up military pressure on Iran to extract maximum concessions as part of a potential deal. Iran has pushed back against sweeping demands from the U.S. and Israel. While Mr. Trump, who appears wary of getting drawn into prolonged conflicts, may prefer swift result-oriented military action if diplomacy fails, Iran's doctrine is not built around quick victory but around denying victory to its adversary.

The situation remains tense and complex. Mr. Trump wants a deal on his terms and has threatened to use force if he doesn't get it. Iran seeks a deal that respects its red lines, and has warned that any new attack could trigger a wider war. Israel is watching closely to see how events unfold next.

## European states say Navalny poisoned with dart frog toxin

**Agence France-Presse**
MUNICH

Five European states, including Britain, France and Germany, said on Saturday that Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny was killed by a "rare toxin" from a dart frog and that the Russian state was the prime suspect in the death.

Navalny, a staunch critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, died in an Arctic prison on February 16, 2024, while serving a 19-year prison sentence on charges widely seen as retribution for his opposition.

"The U.K., Sweden, France, Germany and The Netherlands are confident that Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a lethal toxin," the countries said in a joint statement released at the Munich Security Conference. It said the results followed "analyses of samples" from his body.

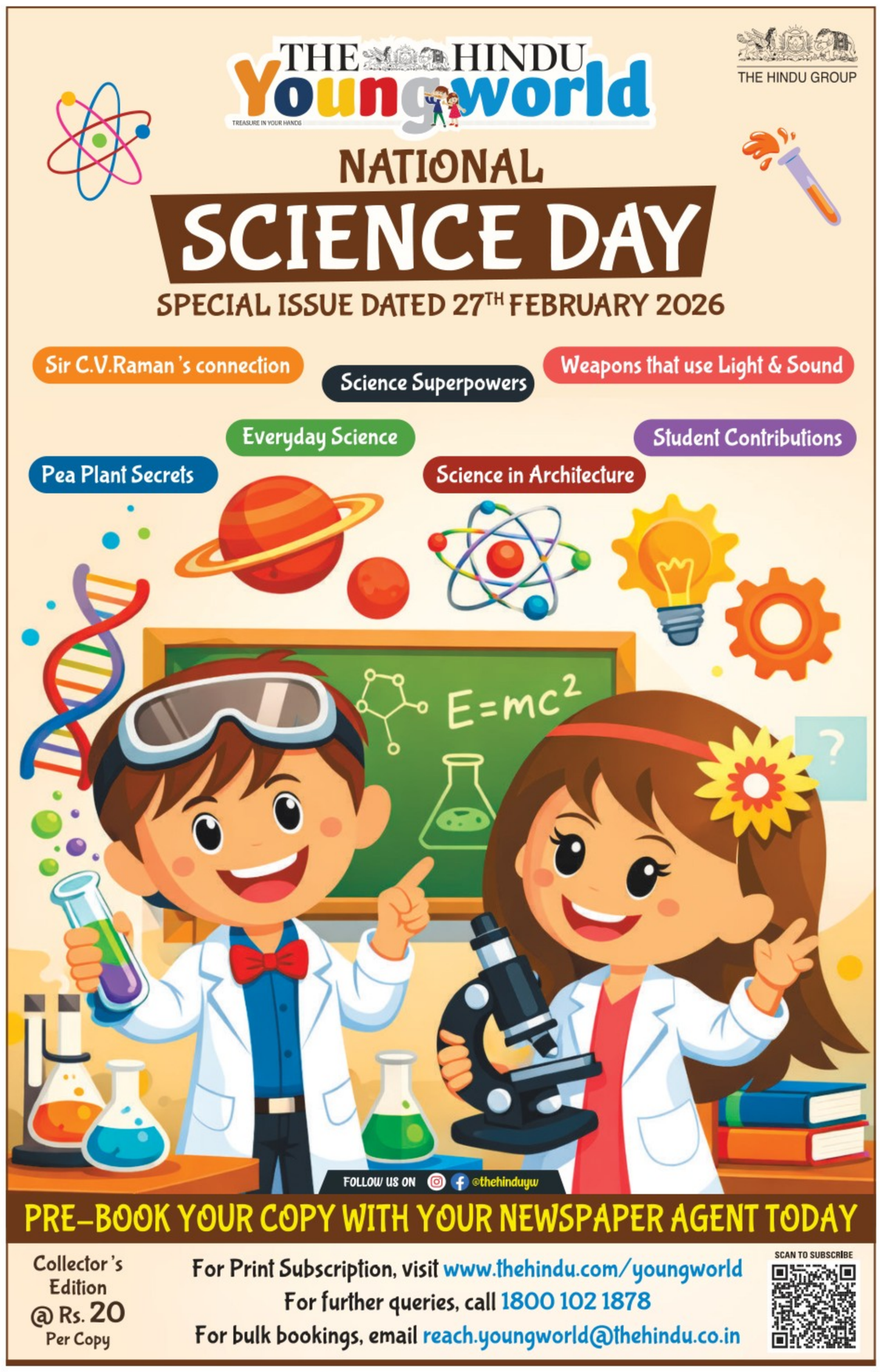
**'Cause of death'**

According to the European states, a toxin found in the skin of South American dart frogs known as epibatidine was found on laboratory analyses of samples from his body.

"Russia claimed that Navalny died of natural causes. But given the toxicity of epibatidine and reported symptoms, poisoning was highly likely the cause of his death," said the statement.

Navalny's widow, Yulia Navalnya, said it was now "science-proven" that the Kremlin opponent had been murdered.

The Kremlin denies the charges.



PLANS FOR TARIQ

## We have practised against bowlers with similar action: Suryakumar

AFP

Sometimes in an exam, you get a question out of the syllabus, but you can't just skip it. You have to tackle it. Yes, he's (Usman Tariq) a different character, but at the same time, we can't just surrender. We have practised against bowlers with similar action — Suryakumar Yadav on how India plans to tackle the Pakistan off-spinner.

INSTANT SOLUTION

## Tariq is different, but Abhishek can help tackle him: Harbhajan

PTI

Former India player Harbhajan Singh feels that Abhishek Sharma, who has regained fitness, will help India neutralise the threat from Pakistan's unorthodox spinner Usman Tariq. "He is different from the other spinners and has a lot of variations, but Abhishek plays spin really well and dominates the spinners," said Harbhajan.

OPTIMISTIC

## It's a new day, a new match: Agha plays down poor WC record

PTI

Obviously, we don't have a good record against them (India) in World Cups. But it's a new day, a new match. And you have to play good cricket to win. You can't change history. You can learn from it. We learned from it. And we'll try to win the match — Pakistan captain Salman Agha.

WATCH AND TALK

## PCB chief Naqvi to attend the India-Pakistan T20 WC match

FILE PHOTO

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi will be in Colombo for Sunday's India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match. The visit is also expected to include talks with the ICC officials following a brief boycott episode that threatened the marquee fixture. A source said senior PCB officials will accompany Naqvi to Sri Lanka for the Group A contest.

# History favours India against a mercurial Pakistan

The Men in Blue will be tempted to play an additional spinner as the surface at the Premadasa Stadium is likely to aid the slow bowlers; rain could play spoilsport in the eagerly anticipated game

T20 WORLD CUP

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**
COLOMBO

In warm Colombo, the cricketing ice between India and Pakistan will briefly thaw on Sunday night. The prelude to this ICC T20 World Cup Group A match has been about theatrics and subcontinental angst, before Pakistan decided to finally play against its neighbour.

While sport and politics inexplicably mix, this amalgamation is at an extreme level in contests involving India and Pakistan. Hopefully, the leap across the Palk Strait and into Sri Lanka, will soften the political edges even if sporting tension is high.

There is also the subtext of weather playing a part as rains are expected to swirl in from the Bay of Bengal. Hopefully, the moist intrusion will be minor at the R. Premadasa Stadium, as the most hyped game of the championship awaits its moment under lights.

History might suggest an overwhelming Indian dominance in these jousts, yet Pakistan remains a unit that can be either stunning or sluggish within the blink of an eye.

The surface here, a touch abrasive and perhaps biased towards twirly men offering spin, might add a twist to the old template of Indian batters against Pakistani seamers.

So far, pacer Shaheen Afridi has led an attack that overwhelmingly featured spinners in the previous encounters, especially with five turning up in the clash against the USA.

Stationed in neutral Sri Lanka, Pakistan has played both its games at the Sinhalese Sports Club, and a shift to the Premadasa Stadium may not cause any major changes in the playing XI.

Like its rival, India too steps in with two victories under its belt.

Opener Abhishek Sharma, after missing the fixture at Delhi, could be back. Meanwhile, the other batters have not entirely fired together.

Against the USA, skipper Suryakumar Yadav did the rescue act, and against Namibia, Ishan Kishan and Hardik Pandya shone while others had their starts and then lost their wickets in clusters.

India may be tempted to field an extra spinner, too, with perhaps Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik primarily constituting the pace component.

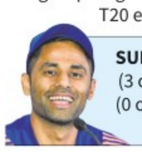
Three decades ago, a joint India-Pakistan team played a game here against a Sri Lankan XI. It was an act of solidarity to bolster confidence in the Emerald Isle as the civil war's repercussions forced Australia and West Indies to stay away during the 1996 World Cup.

Much has changed since then as another India-Pakistan duel looms ahead.

Sunday's super show
It will be tough to choose between Suryakumar's India and Agha's Pakistan when they meet in a marquee clash in Colombo
Emirates
H2H IN T20 WORLD CUPS
MATCHES PLAYED 8
WON BY INDIA 7
WON BY PAKISTAN 1

NUMBERS THAT MATTER

- 0 India has never gone down to Pakistan in T20Is while chasing
- 0 Neither India nor Pakistan has crossed the 200-run mark when playing against each other
- 1 The only time the two met in a T20I fixture in Colombo was during the 2012 World T20. India coasted to an eight-wicket victory
- 1 India has lost to Pakistan only once in World Cups (ODIs and T20Is combined). It was a 10-wicket reverse in the group stage of the 2021 T20 event in Dubai
- 5 India is on a five-match winning run against Pakistan in T20Is. The last time it suffered a defeat was in the Super Four phase of the 2022 Asia Cup in Dubai
- 11 India is on an 11-game (10 wins) unbeaten streak in T20 World Cups. Its group game against Canada in the previous edition was washed out
- 11 T20I matches won by India in 15 outings at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. Pakistan emerged triumphant in five of its seven games



**SURYAKUMAR** has a perfect captaincy record (3 out of 3) against Pakistan while Agha (0 out of 3) is yet to win a match against India as Pakistan skipper

THE LEADERS IN INDIA-PAKISTAN CONTESTS

- Most runs: **KOHLI** (India, 492 in 11 innings)
- Most wickets: **HARDIK** (India, 15 in 8 innings)
- Most dismissals (wicketkeeper): **DHONI** (India, 11 in 8 innings – 9 catches & 2 stumpings)
- Most catches (fielder): **RAINA** (India, 7 in 6 innings)
- Most appearances: **ROHIT** (India, 12)

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

A T20 World Cup match was decided by a Bowl Out for the first and last time in 2007. India won 3-0 in Durban in the teams' maiden T20I meeting

| INDIA | |
|---|---|
| SEHWAG | ✓ |
| HARBHAJAN | ✓ |
| UTHAPPA | ✓ |

| PAKISTAN | |
|---|---|
| ARAFAT | ✗ |
| GUL | ✗ |
| SHAHID AFRIDI | ✗ |

Source: ESPNCRICINFO
Compiled by **S. SHRIVATHSAN**

## 'India-Pakistan game more about occasion'

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**
COLOMBO

Suryakumar Yadav was in a chirpy mood. Cheeky remarks were made, serious replies were registered too, and all through he had a big grin. The Indian skipper's demeanour belied the pressure that underpins clashes against Pakistan.

Speaking to the media at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Saturday evening, Suryakumar admitted that at the back of their minds, he and his players would still be conscious about Sunday's T20 World Cup game against Pakistan. "We knew we had this game on the 15th and we have prepared for it. But we want to play good cricket. When you play an India-Pakistan game, it's more about the occasion. It's a big platform, obviously," he said.

He also hinted that Abhishek Sharma could play. "Well if the Pakistan captain (Salman Agha) wants to see Abhishek bat, then okay we will play him," Suryakumar said. And when pressed on sharing handshakes with the opponents, he immediately replied: "Just wait a bit, you will know tomorrow, just have your food, sleep well tonight."

When a correspondent asked whether he prefers more matches against Pakistan, Suryakumar turned diplomatic: "Well, this (decision) is beyond me." He conceded that the rival has done well recently but didn't see any specific advantage Agha's men could extract by virtue of having been in Sri Lanka for a while. "Sri Lanka is close to India. The pitches may be a little different but we have played enough here and know the conditions," he said.

Keeping selection cards close to his chest, the captain emphasised that his unit has good seamers, spinners and batters, and a call on the playing XI would be made after assessing the conditions. And as for the rain-forecast, Suryakumar said: "We cannot control the weather, we will look at playing good cricket".

## Agha supports Tariq

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**
COLOMBO

The scrutiny over Usman Tariq's bowling action and the pressure of playing India, were the recurrent themes when Salman Agha faced the media here on Saturday.

"(The) ICC has tested him and cleared him twice, I don't know what the fuss is all about. Anyway, he doesn't get bothered," the Pakistan skipper said while backing his off-spinner, whose pause in the delivery stride stirred debate.

Asked about his team's mindspace considering Pakistan's initial hesitation to play India in the T20 World Cup, Agha said: "The magnitude of the game has always increased. When we came here, we were prepared for everything."

# We could witness a cracker of a game

**Sunil Gavaskar**

There was never any likelihood of the T20 World Cup match between archrivals India and Pakistan not taking place. But when politics enters the scene and politicians try and earn brownie points, there will always be drama created by leaks and innuendos and a lot of hot air.

To the credit of both teams, they remained focused on the tasks at hand. They wanted to best the emerging teams in their group and ensure qualification to the next stage of the tournament. The manner in which both won their first two matches is, in itself, an indicator that we might get to witness a cracker of a game.

Crompton
Fans
INDIA'S 1st
DUAL CONTROL BLDC FAN
Groove Regmote
1.Claims are made in good faith, based on data available at the time of release, and do not imply any exclusivity.

India will be sweating on the availability of Abhishek Sharma, who did not play but was present at the ground when India faced Namibia. Whether Abhishek is match-ready is what the Indian think-tank will probably decide a few hours before the spin of the coin.

The pitches in Colombo have been on the slower side, unlike the ones in Mumbai and Delhi, where India played their opening two games. India could thus be tempted to bring in Washington Sundar, who can purvey his offies as well as give added heft and depth to the batting order.

Another talking point has been about off-spinner Usman Tariq from Pakistan. He caused a few problems to the Aussies and there has been a lot of debate about the legality of his action and the pause he takes before releasing the ball.

There is nothing in the rules that say how much a bowler can pause just like there is nothing in the rules asking the batter not to move before the ball is released. Pakistan will have the advantage of having been in Sri Lanka for the last 10 days and having had a feel of the conditions.

As always in this format, the PowerPlays indicate how the game is likely to turn out. The catching will be crucial and the team that saves that extra run will end up smiling more than the other.

*(Professional Management Group)*

# USA holds the edge against Namibia

**Tarun Shastry**
CHENNAI

If there is one key takeaway from the ongoing T20 World Cup, it is that most associate nations have come not merely to participate, but to compete.

Their approach against established teams has added fresh energy to the tournament, and two such sides – USA and Namibia – will square off in a Group-A encounter here on Sunday.

**Familiar conditions**

USA heads into the contest with momentum and the advantage of being familiar with the conditions, having routed Netherlands by 93 runs here on Friday.

With the ball, medium-pacer Shadley van Schalkwyk (11 wickets) has led the attack effectively with change of pace and variations.

Add the left-arm spin of Harmeet Singh, the combination could prove particularly useful on the traditionally spin-friendly Chepauk surface.

Namibia, however, is unlikely to be overawed as Sunday's clash promises to be a battle between two ambitious associate teams determined to make their mark on the global stage.

**Getting ready:** The Namibia players at a training session. R. RAGU

Today's matches

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mumbai, 11 a.m. | Chennai, 3 p.m. | Colombo (RPS), 7 p.m. |
| HEAD-TO-HEAD | HEAD-TO-HEAD | HEAD-TO-HEAD |
| Played: 3 | Played: 2 | Played: 16 |
| West Indies 1 \| Nepal 2 | USA 2 \| Namibia 0 | India 13 \| Pakistan 3 |

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# Jansen and Markram deliver as SA decimates NZ

The left-arm pacer, with a four-wicket haul, helps the Proteas restrict the Kiwis to 175 for seven; the captain then takes over with an unbeaten 86 to guide his side to its third successive win

T20 WORLD CUP

**Dhruva Prasad**
AHMEDABAD

**Early blows:** Jansen, coming in as first change, put New Zealand on the back foot with a triple strike in the PowerPlay. VIJAY SONEJI

**Leading by example:** Markram dominated the Kiwi bowling attack and put the result beyond doubt. VIJAY SONEJI

After surviving a mighty Afghan scare by the barest of margins, South Africa left nothing to chance in its seven-wicket demolition of New Zealand at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday. The result extended the Proteas' winning run in the T20 World Cup.

A 55,000-strong weekend crowd roared as skipper Aiden Markram smashed the Kiwi pacers all around the park in the PowerPlay to ignite South Africa's 176-run pursuit. By the time his opening partner, Quinton de Kock, was undone by Lockie Fergu-son's slower one in the fifth over, the duo had trimmed the target by more than a third.

Markram (86 n.o., 44b, 8x4, 4x6) raised a 19-ball half-century with a six down the ground to get the crowd on its feet and took his team over the line with 17 balls to spare.

It was a near-perfect day for Markram. He had called for more discipline from his bowlers, and they responded for the best part of the New Zealand innings.

The in-form Lungi Ngidi missed his lines in the PowerPlay, and Finn Allen punished him with three fours and a six in the third over. But the Proteas found another hero in the lanky Marco Jansen (4 for 40).

The left-arm pacer got the dangerous Tim Seifert to nick behind with a short delivery after the opener had flat-batted him for a six over long-on. It was a night of instant redemption for Jansen. After Rachin Ravindra scooped him for a six, Jansen shortened his length, and the southpaw edged to a diving David Miller at short third-man.

Three deliveries later, the 25-year-old deceived Allen with a slower one to claim his third scalp inside the PowerPlay.

As the Kiwis rebuilt through Mark Chapman and Daryl Mitchell's 74-run fifth-wicket stand, Jansen made a crucial incision again.

His slower delivery induced a leading edge from Chapman. From there, the Kiwis could only eke out 37 runs in the last six overs and fell way short.

**The scores:**
New Zealand 175/7 in 20 overs (Finn Allen 31, Mark Chapman 48, Daryl Mitchell 32, Marco Jansen 4/40) lost to South Africa 178/3 in 17.1 overs (Aiden Markram 86 n.o.).
**Toss:** South Africa. **PoM:** Jansen.

# Banton's heroics help England negotiate pitfalls against Scotland, brighten Super Eight chances

**Y.B. Sarangi**
KOLKATA

**Starring role:** Banton displayed masterful strokeplay and executed some stunning drives. K.R. DEEPAK

Tom Banton clinically carried out a finisher's job with an unbeaten 41-ball 63 (4x4, 3x6) as England overcame some tight situations to beat Scotland by five wickets in a Group C match and stay on track for a Super Eight berth in the T20 World Cup.

Electing to field, England bundled out Scotland for 152 before achieving the target with 10 balls to spare at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday.

**Early wickets**
In a contest between the 'auld enemies,' England tottered early after losing Phil Salt and Jos Buttler.

Banton and Jacob Bethell (32, 28b, 2x4, 1x6) then absorbed the pressure and steadied the boat with a 66-run stand.

When Banton hammered Mark Watt for three sixes in the ninth over, one thought England would cruise from here.

However, a twist in the tale was not far off as Bethell and Harry Brook departed in quick succession.

Banton, who displayed his masterful strokeplay with a straight bat and executed stunning drives, collected another crucial 46 runs with Sam Curran (28) before joining hands with Will Jacks to complete the task.

**Archer strikes**
Earlier, during Scotland's innings Jofra Archer made early dents, claiming George Munsey and Brandon McMullen in the third over.

Michael Jones (33, 20b, 5x4, 1x6) relied on his smart shot selection in his breezy knock.

Scotland captain Richie Berrington (49, 32b, 5x4, 2x6) and Tom Bruce maintained a fine balance between consolidation and acceleration and added 71 runs.

As the English bowlers bowled tidily, Berrington – who pulled, swept and drove well to the fence – and Bruce made room to execute spectacular shots and excite the 41000-plus spectators.

Liam Dawson then had Bruce caught at deep square-leg to apply the brakes.

**Flurry of wickets**
Scotland lost five wickets for 14 runs inside four overs, with an accurate Adil Rashid, who trapped Berrington leg before, taking three and Dawson two, to lose momentum.

**The scores:**
Scotland 152 in 19.4 overs (Michael Jones 33, Richie Berrington 49, Jofra Archer 2/24, Adil Rashid 3/36, Liam Dawson 2/34) lost to England 155/5 in 18.2 overs (Jacob Bethell 32, Tom Banton 63 n.o.).
**Toss:** England.
**PoM:** Banton.

# Stand-in skipper Tucker sets up Ireland's big win against Oman

**Agence France-Presse**
COLOMBO

**Scintillating:** Tucker's sensational 51-ball unbeaten 94 included 10 fours and four maximums. AFP

Ireland's stand-in captain Lorcan Tucker scored a superb unbeaten 94 as it hammered Oman by 96 runs to register its first Group B win at the T20 World Cup.

It propelled Ireland to the tournament's highest score of 235 for five, the second biggest total in the history of the Men's T20 World Cup.

Oman was never remotely in the chase at the Sinhalese Sports Club and was bundled out for 139 in 18 overs.

Tucker rescued the Irish from a precarious 64 for four after 7.3 overs with a sensational 51-ball knock that included 10 fours and four sixes.

He just missed out on a century when he lost the strike in the final over and was a spectator as George Dockrell hit the last three balls to the fence.

Tucker put on 101 runs for the fifth wicket with Gareth Delany, who made 56 off 30 balls.

In reply, opener Aamir Kaleem scored exactly 50 and Hammad Mirza 46 but they were the only bright spots for Oman.

**The scores:** Ireland 235/5 in 20 overs (Tucker 94 n.o., Delany 56; Shakeel 3/33) bt Oman 139 in 18 overs (Kaleem 50, Mirza 46; Little 3/16). **Toss:** Oman. **PoM**: Tucker.

# Bayern cruises past Bremen

EURO LEAGUES

**Agence France-Presse**
BREMEN

Harry Kane scored twice in the first half as Bayern Munich cruised to a 3-0 win at Werder Bremen on Saturday, restoring its six-point lead atop the Bundesliga table.

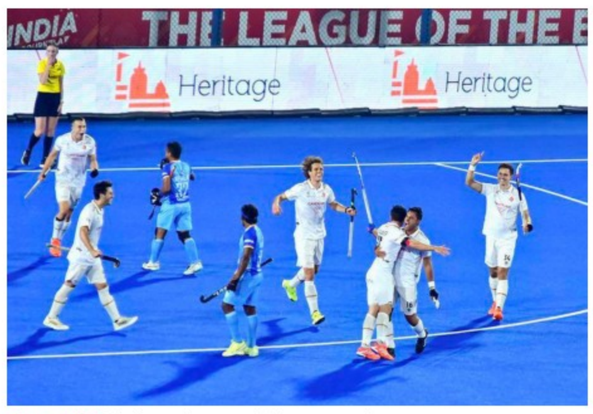
Borussia Dortmund's 4-0 win over Mainz on Friday drew it within three points of the league leaders but Bayern responded.

**The results: Bundesliga:** Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Brown 24, Amaimouni 34, Knauff 75) bt Borussia M'Gladbach 0; Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Quansah 13, Schick 14, Tapsoba 52, Poku 78) bt St. Pauli 0; Werder Bremen 0 lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Kane 22-pen, 25, Goretzka 70); Hamburg 3 (Koenigsdoerffer 35, 82, Capaldo 45+2) bt Union Berlin 2 (Querfeld 28-pen, Ilic 89); Hoffenheim 3 (Asllani 46, Kabak 51, Gendrey 90+5) bt SC Freiburg 0.
**On Friday: Serie A:** Pisa 1 (Loyola 71) lost to AC Milan 2 (Loftus-Cheek 39, Modric 85).
**Bundesliga:** Borussia Dortmund 4 (Guirassy 10, 43, Beier 15, Bensebaini 84) bt Mainz 0.

# Belgium stays perfect as India suffers third loss on the trot

PRO LEAGUE

**Uthra Ganesan**
ROURKELA




**On a roll:** Belgium players celebrate a goal. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The Indian team finally showed glimpses of finding its rhythm and playing like a unit but it was few and far between to overcome Belgium's early onslaught and the host went down 2-4 for its third straight defeat in the FIH Pro League here on Saturday.

Belgium, meanwhile, wrapped up the first half of its campaign with a fourth consecutive win. It rode on four penalty-corner goals within a span of six minutes and impeccable defending.

The Indians made it a lot tougher on themselves, oscillating between electric and erratic. The home team started positively and created a couple of half chances, getting the first shot in the seventh minute but Aditya Lalage's goal was disallowed on referral for the ball not having travelled five metres outside the circle.

Belgium pressed hard on counters, using short passes to glide through the middle and easily finding gaps in the Indian midfield and legs inside the circle to earn repeated penalty corners.

Hugo Labouchere started the scoring in the 11th minute and Alexander Hendrickx got the fourth in the 17th.

Lalage pulled one back in the 24th off a goalmouth melee but the Indian defence was in tatters.

The second half saw a role reversal, desperate defending and some good goalkeeping keeping the Belgians at bay but the Indian forwards kept fluffing up their chances.

Abhishek continued to frustrate, getting into the right positions only to be off-target.

There were moments when, orchestrated by Hardik Singh, the Indians appeared to find their mojo, only to run out of it as suddenly.

**The result:** Belgium 4 (Hugo Labouchere 11-pc, Alexander Hendrickx 14-pc, 17-pc, Arthur de Sloover 15-pc) bt India 2 (Aditya Lalage 24, Harmanpreet Singh 37-pc).

# Ganghyeon stuns Ovtcharov; Jancarik ends home hope Sathiyan's campaign

WTT STAR CONTENDER

**K. Keerthivasan**
CHENNAI

**Pure joy:** Ganghyeon edged out second seed Ovtcharov in a thriller. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

South Korea's Park Ganghyeon ended German second seed Dimitrij Ovtcharov's hopes in a thrilling men's singles quarterfinal while Czechia's Lubomir Jancarik routed India's G. Sathiyan to reach his maiden WTT Star Contender semifinal at the TNPESU campus here on Saturday.

Later, third seed France's 17-year-old Flavien Coton, leading 2-0, suffered a reverse in the third and fourth games before finding his rhythm to beat Swede's Elias Ranefur.

**Edge-of-the-seat stuff**
However, the match that had the modest gathering on its feet was the one between Ovtcharov and Ganghyeon. Quicker on his toes and taking the ball early, the Korean won in five games.

Having played two solid matches to beat Lim Jonghoon and Eduard Ionescu, Sathiyan was expected to put up a strong fight. It was not to be. The Czech was precise with his placements.

He read Sathiyan's serves really well, attacked with control, and won points consistently from close and back of the table.

The 38-year-old won the the first two games comfortably. In the third, Sathiyan, seeded 10, stepped on the accelerator, racing to a 9-7 lead.

**Holding his nerve**
He even held a game point at 11-10, but Jancarik held his nerve to close out the match. It was his third victory over an Indian in the tournament.

The Coton-Ranefur decider was evenly poised at 9-9. At 10-9, Coton played a tight short ball that forced an error, and a long backhand from Ranefur sealed the Frenchman's place in the last four.

**Unlucky Junsung**
Korea's Oh Junsung, the men's top seed, suffered an ankle injury while competing in the mixed doubles semifinals and had to be stretchered off.

He will miss the rest of the competition and his quarterfinal opponent Thibault Poret received a walkover.

In the semifinals, Ganghyeon will take on Jancarik while Coton meets his French teammate and doubles partner Poret.

**The results: Singles: quarterfinals: Men:** Flavien Coton (Fra) bt Elias Ranefur (Swe) 11-6, 11-4, 11-13, 7-11, 11-9; Lubomir Jancarik (Cze) bt G. Sathiyan 11-6, 11-8, 13-11; Park Ganghyeon (Kor) bt Dimitrij Ovtcharov (Ger) 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 5-11, 14-12; Thibault Poret (Fra) w/o Oh Junsung (Kor).

**Doubles: final:** Coton & Poret (Fra) w/o Lim Jonghoon & Junsung (Kor).

**Women: Singles: quarterfinals:** Cheng I-Ching (Tpe) bt Peng Yu-Han (Tpe) 3-11, 11-8, 13-11, 11-3; Sakura Yokoi (Jpn) bt Andreea Dragoman (Rou) 11-6, 11-8, 11-9; Satsuki Odo (Jpn) bt Hitomi Sato (Jpn) 11-8, 11-9, 11-5; Miu Hirano (Jpn) bt Eunhye Lee (Kor) 11-3, 11-7, 11-8.

**Mixed doubles (semifinals):** Eduard Ionescu & Bernadette Szocs (Rou) bt Oh Junsung (Kor) & Miyu Nagasaki (Jpn) 11-6, 6-11, 11-9 (conceded); Harmeet Desai & Yasashwini Ghorpade bt Payas Jain & Syndrela Das 11-9, 11-6, 11-9.

## INBRIEF

### Tudor appointed interim manager of Tottenham

Igor Tudor will take over as Tottenham Hotspur's interim manager until the end of the season, the north London club said on Saturday, three days after Thomas Frank was sacked following a poor run of results.

### Railways weightlifters win both team championships

Harcharan Singh and Lovepreet Singh claimed elite men's 110kg and +110kg titles respectively on the concluding day of the National weightlifting championships in Modinagar on Saturday. Railways won the team championships in men and women sections. M. Raja (men) and Mirabai Chanu (women) were chosen the 'best lifters.'

**The results (winners only): Men: 110kg: Elite:** Harcharan Singh (RSPB) snatch 161kg, clean and jerk 194kg, total 355kg; **Junior:** Suvansh Thakur (HP) 147kg, 167kg, 314kg; **+94kg: Youth:** Aditya 138kg, 170kg, 308kg; **+110kg: Elite:** Lovepreet Singh (SSCB) 172kg, 202kg, 374kg.

## ROUND-UP

**Triumphant:** Jain University won the all India university women's basketball championship held at Jain University Global Campus (Kanakapura Road) in Bengaluru.

**Karnataka has the upper hand**

Karnataka dominated proceedings against host Himachal Pradesh on the second day of their C.K. Nayudu Trophy under-23 match at Amtar, Nadaun.

**The scores:**

Karnataka 537 in 142.2 overs (Prakar Chaturvedi 55, Faizan Khan 52, K.P. Karthikeya 97, Dhruv Prabhakar 93, Aneeshwar Gautam 42, Hardik Raj 75, Y. Parantap 51) vs Himachal 114/1 in 34 overs (Sagar Malhan 54).

### LIVE TELECAST

**Women's Rising Stars Asia Cup:** Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8 a.m.; **India-A vs Pakistan-A,** Sony Sports Ten 3 & LIV, 12.30 p.m.

**Ranji Trophy:** (semifinals), JioHotstar, 9.a.m.

**Table tennis:** WTT Star Contender (Chennai), WTT Global YouTube channel, 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

**Men's T20 World Cup:** Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 p.m.; **India vs Pakistan**, 7 p.m.

**Australia Women vs India Women:** 1st T20I, JioHotstar, 1.45 p.m.

**Serie A:** DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)

**LaLiga:** FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.

# Karnataka stands between Uttarakhand and the final

A formidable Padikkal-led team will fancy its chances; pacer Vyshak's return a boost for the former champion; the first-time semifinalist's hopes rest on Chandela and spinner Mayank

RANJI TROPHY

**N. Sudarshan**
LUCKNOW

A first Ranji Trophy final since its title-winning exploits in 2014-15 beckons Karnataka as it takes on Uttarakhand in the semifinals of the 2025-26 edition at the Ekana Cricket Stadium from Sunday.

Coming as it does on the back of two splendid victories over Punjab (five wickets) and Mumbai (four wickets), Karnataka should fancy its chances. The Devdutt Padikkal-led squad has also attained full-strength, with speedster V. Vyshak having recovered from a hamstring injury.

The quarterfinal win over heavyweight Mumbai will in particular boost the outfit, for the successful 325-run chase was Karnataka's best in history and second-highest fourth-innings total.

It was fashioned by a fine century from K.L. Rahul (130, 182b, 14x4, 1x6) and a solid, unbeaten 83 (123b, 11x4) from southpaw R. Smaran. For the latter, the innings signalled a timely return to form after scores of 0, 1 and 9.

However, for all the good omens, it is a fact that Karnataka has lost in the semifinals of the premier red-ball competition four times in the last decade. Coach Yere Goud, though, insisted that that baggage will not turn into a burden.

**Game for it:** The experienced Karun will aim to pull his weight for Karnataka. R.V. MOORTHY

"Definitely not looking at that," Goud said on match-eve. "We are focusing on doing the good things that have brought us this far. It is important to be there or thereabouts from ball one."

This desire to remain focused and sharp is because Uttarakhand is no pushover. Despite making its First Class debut as recently as 2018-19, the mountain State has finished a quarterfinalist thrice. The 2025-26 campaign marks its maiden last-four appearance.

Skipper Kunal Chandela's 709 runs and left-arm spinner Mayank Mishra's table-topping 52 wickets have been instrumental in the ascent, with the latter securing a match-haul of eight for 72 in the last-eight triumph over Jharkhand.

It remains to be seen how much purchase Mayank and former Karnataka spinner J. Suchith (25 wickets and 414 runs) get from the Lucknow pitch, which Goud expects to be a "good batting surface."

If they can help avenge Uttarakhand's innings-and-281-run quarterfinal loss to Karnataka in 2022-23 – the only meeting between the sides so far – it will be a story for the ages.

**High stakes:** Bengal will have its task cut out in the encounter against J & K. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

# Bengal, J & K face off in a battle of equals

**Y. B. Sarangi**
KALYANI

Having excelled through the season because of their united efforts and incisive pace attacks, Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir (J & K) promise an exciting Ranji Trophy semifinal clash starting at the Bengal Cricket Academy ground on Sunday.

Following its emphatic quarterfinal victory over Andhra, a confident Bengal will be keen to get closer to its long-cherished dream on its 'lucky ground.'

After taming former champion Madhya Pradesh and making its maiden semifinal appearance, J & K is teeming with self-belief.

In the pace department, Bengal is blessed to have the international trio of Mohammed Shami, Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar.

They offer variety and have the combined experience of 200 First Class matches. All-rounder Suraj Jaiswal, a gentle medium-pacer, provides them good support.

J & K's pace department is heavily dependent on Auqib Nabi, who has logged 46 wickets to be overall second. A proven match-winner, he has got adequate support from young left-arm pacer Sunil Kumar and Yudhvir Singh in his team's breakthrough year.

Left-arm spinners Abid Mushtaq and Vanshaj Sharma have chipped in well.

Led by domestic legend Paras Dogra, J & K has found several contributors.

Top-scorer Abdul Samad (543), Dogra and Abid have led the run-gathering responsibility to complement their bowlers.

"We will keep it simple. The pitch looks good for batting. The team batting well will win," said a positive sounding Dogra.

Bengal's team effort has been exemplary. Sudip Gharami (651), who stood out with his knock of 299 in the quarterfinal, Sumanta Gupta and Sudip Chatterjee have led a pack of experienced run-getters.

All-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed (368 runs, 39 wickets) has consistently underlined his utility in winning matches.

"Our bowlers have done a good job till now. If our batters take responsibility, then we will be ahead in the match," said Bengal skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran.

# Gomez, Ferreira Silva in the final; doubles title for Poonacha & Isaro

CHENNAI OPEN

**C. Shyam Sundar**
CHENNAI

Federico Agustin Gomez had enjoyed smooth sailing in the draw till he faced his first big test in the Chennai Open ATP Challenger semifinal against Maks Kasnikowski before winning in three sets to set up a title clash with Frederico Ferreira Silva.

The second seeded Argentine, ranked 196 in the world, served consistently and broke serve once to take the opening set.

His Polish opponent fought back superbly and soon had him on the backfoot.

Kasnikowski improved his serving and broke Gomez twice to level the match.

The decider saw the two players raise their level of play, Gomez in particular. The Argentine served very well and importantly his returns did a lot of damage.

He broke Kasnikowski's serve on two occasions and won 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in over two hours.

In the second semifinal, Portugal's Ferreira Silva didn't have much trouble in getting past fourth seed Ilia Simakin of Russia 6-4, 6-2.

Ferreira Silva is yet to drop a set here this week and is chasing his first Challenger singles title.

The top-seeded Indo-Thai duo of Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha and Pruchya Isaro won the doubles title, beating Jay Clarke and Mukund Sasikumar 6-4, 6-4.

**The results: Semifinals:** Federico Agustin Gomez (Arg) bt Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) 6-3, 2-6, 7-5; Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) bt Ilia Simakin (Rus) 6-4, 6-2.

**Doubles: Final:** Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Niki Poonacha bt Jay Clarke (GBr) & Mukund Sasikumar 6-4, 6-4.

**On top:** Doubles champions Isaro, right, and Poonacha with runners-up Clarke, left, and Sasikumar. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

# Mohun Bagan begins title defence in style

ISL

**Amitabha Das Sharma**
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant began its title defence with a convincing 2-0 win over Kerala Blasters in the inaugural match of the 12th edition of the Indian Super League at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday.

Australian striker Jamie Maclaren opened the scoring in the 36th minute, while substitute Tom Aldred sealed the win for Bagan deep into added time. Bagan dominated proceedings from the outset, creating several opportunities, but struggled to break the Blasters' disciplined defence.

Anirudh Thapa came close in the 22nd minute with an effort that sailed over the bar, and Liston Colaco tested goalkeeper Sachin Suresh with a free-kick. Brazilian winger Robson Robinho also made a couple of angular attempts from close range.

Maclaren opened the scoring in the 36th minute. X@INDSUPERLEAGUE

The breakthrough arrived in the 36th minute when Dimitri Petratos surged down the left flank and delivered a precise cut-back to Maclaren. The striker controlled the ball neatly, evaded Aiban Dohling, and calmly slotted it home with his left foot.

Blasters attempted a comeback after the break, introducing Marlon Trujillo and Kevin Yoke. Despite enjoying a period of midfield dominance, the visitors failed to create clear chances. Aldred, who came on in the 80th minute, put the result beyond doubt in the seventh minute of added time, heading in Thapa's free-kick.

At Fatorda, Inter Kashi played out a 1-1 draw with FC Goa on its ISL debut.

The visitors were down to 10 men in the 80th minute after goalkeeper Lluis Tarees was given the marching orders.

**The results:** Mohun Bagan SG 2 (Jamie Maclaren 36, Tom Aldred 90+7) bt Kerala Blasters 0.
FC Goa 1 (Dejan Drazic 84-pen) drew with Inter Kashi 1 (Prasanth K 45+2).

# Bengaluru FC opens against Sporting Club Delhi

**Achal Ashwin**
BENGALURU

After a long delay and uncertainty, football marks its return to the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday, with Bengaluru FC (BFC) taking on Sporting Club Delhi in their opening ISL 2025-26 match.

For BFC forward Ryan Williams, match day is going to "feel like Christmas morning".

"All the stuff about players taking a pay cut – we'll leave that for another day. We've leave that for the powers above to talk about. But tomorrow is going to feel like Christmas morning for us. We've all been waiting for this for such a long time. We're all super excited to come here – our first game, in front of our fans," Williams said here on Saturday.

Australia-born Williams, who recently acquired Indian citizenship, will link up with 41-year-old experienced star Sunil Chhetri in the attack.

**Fired up:** BFC head coach Renedy and forward Williams will eye victory against Sporting Club Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**New era**

The occasion marks the start of a new era for SC Delhi. Formerly Hyderabad FC, the rebranded club is now owned by the B.C. Jindal Group.

Polish head coach Tomasz Tchorz takes charge of a group of young talent, led by speedy winger Mohammed Aimen and his twin brother, Mohammed Azhar.

# Bhagat wins his fourth consecutive singles gold at the Worlds

PARA BADMINTON

**Press Trust of India**
MANAMA

India's Pramod Bhagat claimed the men's SL3 gold with a 21-12, 21-18 win over Muhammad Al Imran of Indonesia at the BWF Para World Championships, here on Saturday.

The 37-year-old Bhagat won his fourth consecutive singles gold at the Worlds and his sixth overall World title in the category.

The victory underlines Bhagat's dominance in the SL3 division, which refers to a classification for standing players with significant lower limb impairment.

Bhagat had won Worlds' singles gold medals in 2009, 2015, 2019, 2022 and 2024.

He also surpassed China's Lin Dan, who won five men's singles World titles in able-bodied badminton.

Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won the men's doubles SL3-SL4 gold, defeating fellow Indians J. Dilli and N. Sivakumar 21-19, 21-16 in the final.

N. Sivakumar finished runner-up in the men's singles SL4 category, losing to top seed Lucas Mazur of France 12-21, 21-19, 14-21 in the final.

Manisha Ramadass, the top seed in women's singles SU5, went down 11-21, 11-21 to China's Yang Qiu Xia in the title clash.

Top ranked N. Sumathy Sivan also finished runner-up in the women's singles SH6 category after going down 14-21, 21-12, 17-21 to China's Li Feng.